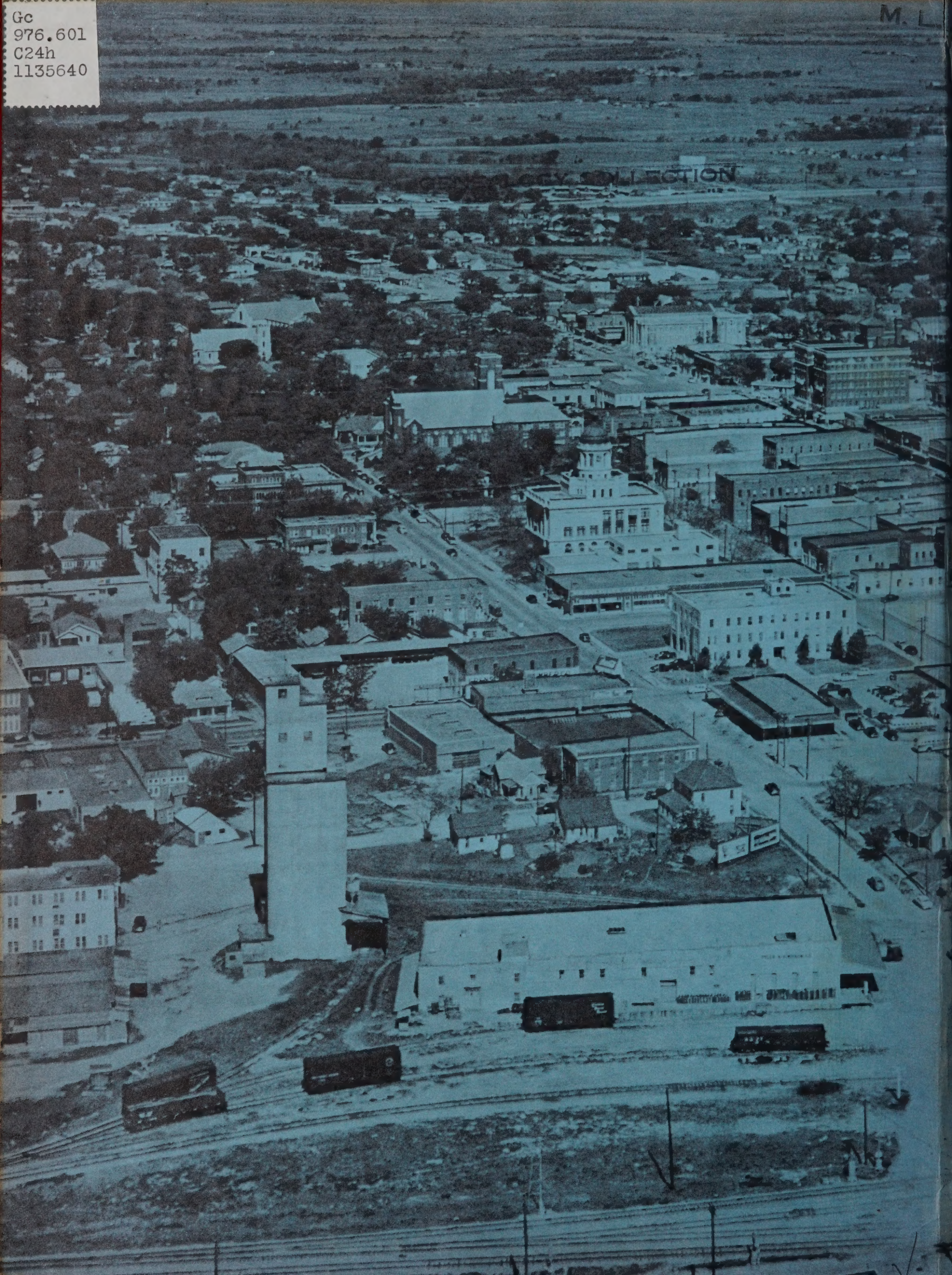


CARTER COUNTY HISTORY



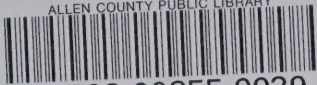


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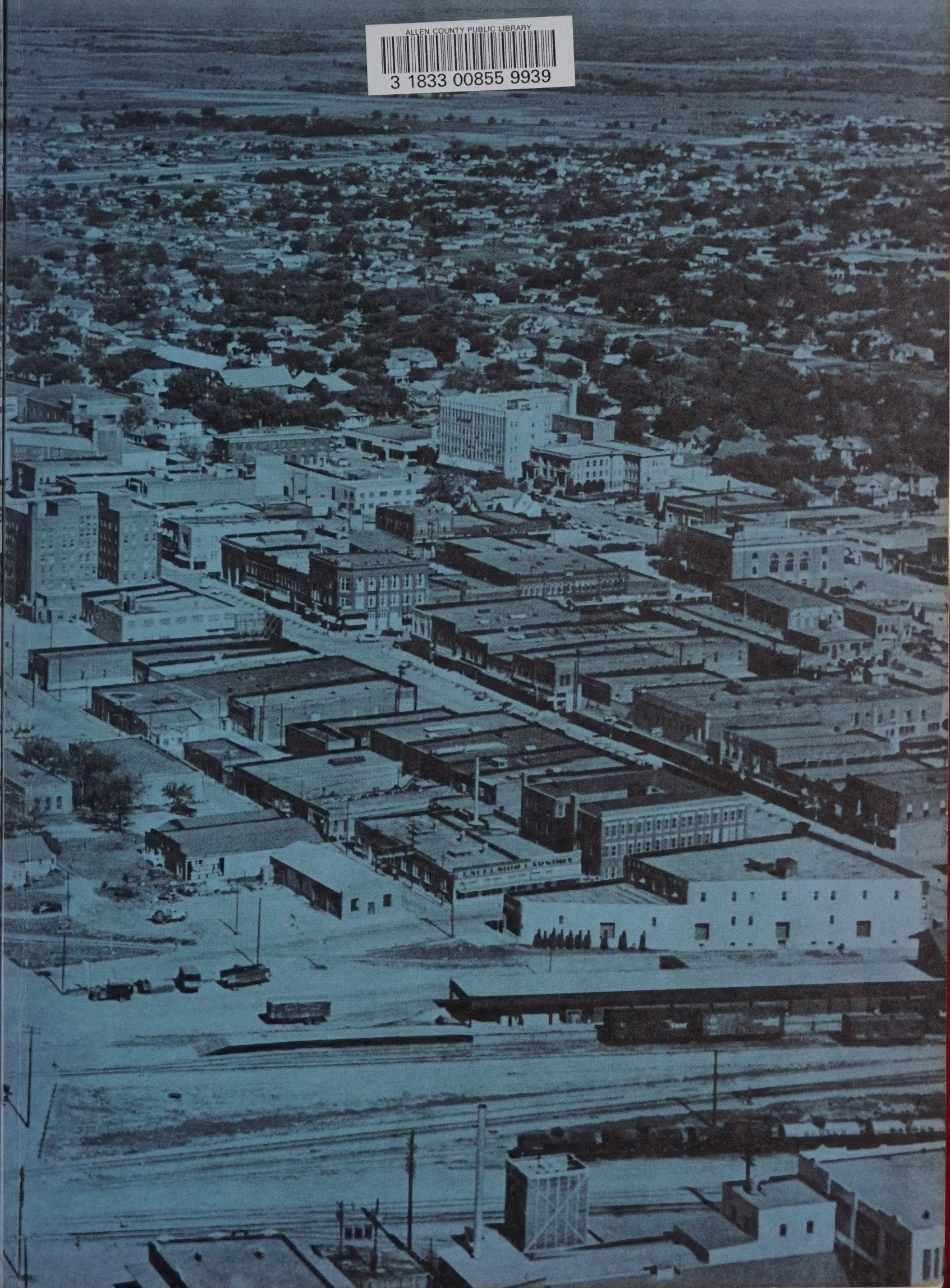
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THE HISTORY OF CARTER COUNTY, Okla.

A pictorial history of Carter County, covering
both the old and the new.

THIS PUBLICATION IS SPONSORED BY THE
ARDMORE JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND DEDICATED TO THE MEN AND WOMEN
WHO HAVE MADE CARTER COUNTY ONE OF
THE OUTSTANDING SECTIONS OF THE STATE.

Published by
University Supply and Equipment Company
Fort Worth, Texas
(First Edition, 1957)

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FORT WORTH AND ARLING COUNTY, TEXAS

Indians, initiative, industry...

These might well be the words which serve as signposts along the rugged path of history in Carter County. This volume, dedicated to the leaders of the past and present who painted those signposts is designed to reclaim and crystallize some of the incidents and events in pictures and words before the acts fade into obscurity.

It also is an attempt to portray how the country and its people rose against the odds of pioneering in an ever-moving march called progress.

The story of Carter County is one with many facets, some of which tax the imagination in this jet age as the tale unfolds to present an era of long ago. It is as complex as some of the mysterious ways of the Indians who inhabited the region in large numbers for so many years.

The story accelerates as it traces details from the days of the leisurely pace of the trader and trapper through the period of settlement and into the time of oil discovery and frenzied speculation. From there the history reveals a leveling off period accentuated by steady economic growth as the residents captured a hearty, stable atmosphere in which to live and raise a family.

The impact which oil and its allied industries have had on the populace of Carter County is as vividly marked in the history as any one thing. It was a turning point in the ways of men and produced a whole new concept of life and provided new methods for expansion.



This, then is a report of the times—a progress report in which the acts and deeds of people carry the burden of the tale of a bustling community which overcame primitive problems and forged the best to be offered into a chain of prosperity and progress.

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Long before the white man made inroads into the territory, the Indians had their homes and hunting grounds here and lived from the products of the land. It was into this region of hostility, distrust and underdevelopment that the early settlers came and fought the battles—both physical and economic—to establish a focal point for the county to be carved from the vast expanses of land.

The settlers tamed the wild country, tilled the land, built houses and churches and converted the region into "home" for many a family.

Already the vivid details of many of the stories have been erased by time from the minds of persons involved. Death has made mute many sources, also. Clear recollections of the pioneer days are at a premium. However, it is the intention of this volume to present as many pictures and stories of the county as possible and attention was given to authenticating the material as it was prepared.

This volume was initiated by the Ardmore Junior Chamber of Commerce. As sponsors, they feel it is a project which is a service to the community. They believe they have added in some measure another link in the heritage of the county.

Here, in pictures and words, are the people and legends of Carter County. Here are the hopes, triumphs and defeats of the men and women who worked and played in the area. Here is Carter County—both past and present.



THANK YOU

It would be impossible to thank individually all persons who submitted material for this volume—just as impossible as it was to use all the good material received, for the book is the fruit of community-wide effort, but the sponsors gratefully make this partial acknowledgment:

The newspapers and chambers of commerce of Carter County were generous with both information and publicity, as were organizations of every type. The journalism classes of Ardmore High School conducted interviews of several pioneers.

The following theses were included in material used as a guide in the basic research:

Paul N. Frame—"A History of Ardmore, Oklahoma

from the earliest beginnings to 1907," M.A., University of Oklahoma, 1949; Frost, Mary Evelyn, "A History of Carter County," M.A., University of Oklahoma, 1942; Erwin, Walter Herman, "Development of Education in Carter County, Oklahoma," M.S., Oklahoma A&M, 1931; Goodnight, Marjorie Chandler, "Pioneers in the Development of Carter County," M.A., Oklahoma A&M, 1939; also, a recent sociological survey of Healdton written by Henry D. Kimmel.

Any possible error of fact should not be charged to any of these publications, for the main thread of the story came from the people of Carter County themselves, their memories and written records.

Individuals who contributed information or photographs include:

George Norris
Roy Johnson
Mrs. Lee Paschall
Charles P. Jones
Mrs. Ethel McKnight
Eugene P. Ledbetter
Ed Sandlin
A. Maxwell
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Ruby Hooks Shockley
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he story of Carter County, at times vague and entangled because of the different dates and events recalled by men who were not adept at pinpointing such things, harks back to an enshrouded past—to the times when cavaliers, brilliant in the plumes and breastplates of Spain, lashed their horses across dim trails and undergrowth and scanned plains later to be mapped as Oklahoma.

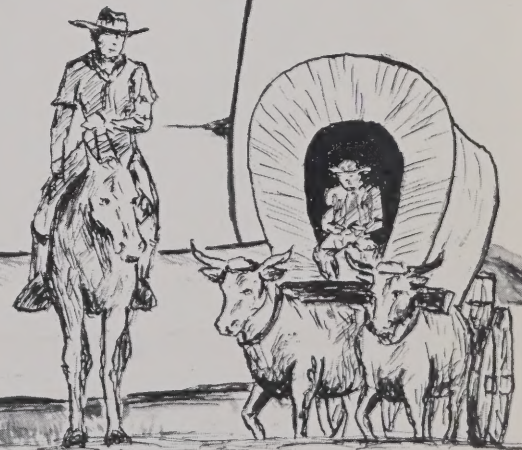
The section is a part of one of the last frontiers developed by white settlement. As a last frontier, it took vigorous, hard-working men and women to convert "Adam Jimmey's Prairie" into what it is today.

In the meantime, the land situation and the influx of many nationalities tend to confuse and cloud the picture and there is direct conflict in many of the details which were set down on paper.

In this volume it is the intent to produce some insight into the times and the people, rather than give a detailed date-by-date recital.

Historians generally agree that Coronado and his troop of gold seekers wandered through the territory and moved on when they failed to find their reward. The group left few markers on their trail between the Red and Canadian Rivers four centuries ago.

Between the time of that visit and the migration of the white men, the Indians were the predominant residents and used the land, streams and trees to meet their simple





CARTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Only scattered tribes of plains Indians roamed the country now known as Southern Oklahoma before 1820 when a treaty was entered into between the Choctaw tribe and the federal government. The government ceded to the Indians a tract of country west of the Mississippi. In 1830 the famous treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek conveyed the land in fee simple to the Choctaw nations, one of the Five Civilized Tribes.

The Choctaws had lived in the South, Georgia and Alabama and surrounding areas as far west as the Mississippi River, but they never had crossed over the river. They began their march to their new home in 1832 and the "Trail of Tears" as it was called lasted for many years.

Privation, disease, heartbreak and disappointment were the rule as the primitive peoples wended their way across the wilderness. Some came across in wagons, others were transported by steamboat up the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers and landed at Fort Coffey near Sculleyville which served for a period as the national capital.

Unmarked graves studded the route from the original

homeland to the new region as the Indians fell victim to the elements and adversity. The survivors continued to struggle along in their attempt to comply with the government movement order.

Small groups of the Chickasaw band of the Choctaw Nation had come to Indian Territory before 1830 but most arrived between 1836 and 1840.

To understand the evolution of the land from the Indians to the white men it is necessary, at least in passing, to understand the thinking of the Indians.

Under their system, the land belonged to the tribe and it was not a part of Indian philosophy of life that any man should lay measure upon the earth and claim any part of it for his own to the exclusion of others. Also, the Indian conception of ownership excluded lands. This was especially true of the Five Civilized Tribes who referred to land, when they referred to it at all, as "ancestral lands" which had supported their ancestors as well as themselves, and which they believed had been placed in their control and right of occupancy to provide for their children and all coming generations.



PIONEER—Charley Roberts of Lone Grove was 91 years old when he was designated one of the county's real pioneers at the city's birthday party in 1956.

Some considered the origin of man was from the earth itself, and as a religious conviction they thought the land could neither be bought nor sold.

But they were willing to grant right of way and to permit almost anyone to use the land.

In 1837 the Chickasaws had signed the treaty of Doaksville with the Choctaws whereby the Chickasaws, for \$530,000 purchased the right of forming a district in the Choctaw country to be called the Chickasaw District of the Choctaw Nation. Some 13 years later the district was divided into four counties, Cotton, Caddo, Perry and Wichita. This arrangement existed until the Chickasaws in 1855 felt their rights of self government were not being sufficiently respected and signed a new alliance with the Choctaws which established the Chickasaw Nation in place of the old Chickasaw District.

At the capital, Tishomingo, the leaders drew up new laws and fashioned a government not too dissimilar from the federal system. Four new counties were established in the Chickasaw Nation, Panola, Tishomingo, Pontotoc and Pickens.

It was in the latter county that Ardmore was destined to rise from the grasslands. Pickens County remained in existence until 1907 when, with the statehood, the county system of the Indian Territory was revised and Ardmore became the Carter County seat.

Before the Civil War there were few white men in the Chickasaw Nation, with the few there coming in from Texas. These white men were absorbed as laborers or farm helpers. The very size of the land area prohibited the Chickasaws from taking over all of it and before long the number of white men began to grow. The region also was soon discovered as a haven for the "nightriders" and others who had run afoul of the law or sought to lose their identity.

As time passed the nation was torn and pressed by ever-increasing encroachment by the whites. Laws were enacted at Tishomingo to deal with the problems but their enforcement was foredoomed by lack of understanding and deliberate flouting of the rules by the whites.

As a result of activities within the nation during the Civil War the United States found an excuse to nullify the treaties of 1828 and 1837 in which the Choctaws and Chickasaws had been assured the land as "long as grass grows and the rivers run."

The white men wanted this land and the white men were going to have the land. The Indians were in line for a series of moves which eventually would make it possible for the white men to rule the land which once had been the community property of the Choctaws and Chickasaws.

The business of raising cattle was becoming gigantic in the Texas country to the south and the lucrative means of turning beef into spendable dollars was spreading into the nation. Texas cattle were being driven up the trails to the Kansas shipping points and it is easy to visualize the Texans taking more than passing note of the lush grasslands which the Indians controlled.

The Indian leaders were not altogether ignorant of the situation or the intentions of the cattlemen and would not readily submit to having them take over the land. However, a permit system for the ranchmen was instituted and satisfied both the citizens and non-citizens—for a period at least.

The early permit rules provided that the non-citizens could live in and pasture their cattle in the nation by paying an annual fee of 25 cents. This tax was increased to \$1 a year, and by 1876 was up to \$5 annually. In addition, a tax of 25 cents per head of cattle also was levied.

In some respects, this system worked against the Indians as it actually made more attractive their land to the outsiders and served to draw in the white men



REFLECTING—Mrs. Maude Hicks who came to Ardmore in 1902 at the age of 20 donned an old-fashioned bonnet similar to one she wore as a girl when she attended the party. The picture was taken in Whittington Park.



COTTON WHEN IT MEANT MONEY IN CARTER

in droves. Texas ranchers, especially, took advantage of the situation as it offered them an opportunity to push across the Red River into the prized land they so long had viewed from the other side of the stream. Many of these white men ultimately married Chickasaw women and, by that act, became intermarried citizens of the nation and acquired equal claim to the common range. This wiped out the permit and tax barrier for them and a claim to a tract of land depended upon occupancy and improvements made upon it.

This system, coupled with the previous land policies, made it practically impossible to designate correct boundaries. In fact, at this point, such boundaries were not wanted, on paper at least.

In June of 1866 the Indians had been forced into a treaty under which their Negro slaves became "freedmen." The treaty also required the Chickasaws to confer full tribal citizenship on these freedmen and give each and each descendent thereof 40 acres of land. The Chickasaws did not have the right of individual ownership of land. The treaty demanded that if they failed to adopt the freedmen and give them the land the United States government would take \$300,000 which was admitted by the U. S. as being due the Chickasaws for their western lands which had been taken away and use this money to remove the freedmen and set them up elsewhere.

The Indians refused to accept the freedmen and they were not removed by the federal government, which, incidentally, did not return the \$300,000 either.

An impasse developed and existed until 1898 when the Indians flatly turned down the proposal. The Curtis Act in 1898 provided that all tribal lands should be

allocated to members of the tribe individually. The Dawes Committee, operating under the Curtis Act, proposed to enroll all members of the tribe, including the freedmen. Douglas H. Johnson, governor of the Chickasaws, made an appeal and through his moving speeches and discussions was successful in gaining a separation of the rolls.

This legal tangle helps explain why the designation of land ownership was a nebulous and troublesome thing down through the years.

The tough, swaggering railroad gangs made their appearance in the territory in the middle 1880's and by 1887 the Santa Fe Railroad had built its line across the nation. This made a handy method for the influx of new settlers and towns which, without much foundation, began to spring up.

It was during this time also that the lusty living held sway and the lawless elements did little to foster good will or improve the communities. It was not unusual for several killings to take place in a short period. Whisky was doled out in large quantities and "shooting up the town" was a common sport.

Slowly but surely, the Indians were beginning to realize that they faced the prospect of being permanently deprived of their property. Lands in the western part of the nation were in the hands of the white intruders. There was a white population of non-citizens of about 50,000. The Chickasaw population of some 4,000 could not hope to hold its own under such circumstances. It was in 1896 that the Indians appealed to the federal government for aid.

This resulted in the Dawes Committee coming in and compiling the tribal rolls and setting up the land sur-



U. S. MARSHALS IN 1916—These men were among those who helped bring law and order to the region in the days of infancy. Left to right are Arthur Nisbit, Dick Hignight and Dow Brazel.

veys which were to establish ownership and open the gates for exploitation of the region on a large scale.

The rolls listed 6,185 Indian, mixed blood and white citizens and 5,670 Negro freedmen, records disclose. The Indians were given 320 acres each, and the freedmen, after all of the years, received 40 acres each.

This process of cutting the earth into mythical plots designated by boundaries on a map was a time consuming task and it wasn't until 1906 that the city of Ardmore was laid out by the surveyors. With the coming of statehood in 1907 the governmental functions of the Chickasaw Nation ceased to exist.

The ranchers, as has been shown, were among the earliest known settlers in Carter County and Adam Jim-

mey, who in 1841 lived about four miles south of what is Ardmore, was one of the first. It was from this pioneer that the area received the name "Adam Jimmey's Prairie."

As time went by other ranch holdings developed, among them the A-Bar Ranch, McCoggin Ranch, I. S. Washington Ranch, and the Roff Ranch.

Sources show the first post office in the region, as far as can be determined, was the one at Healdton, which was established Feb. 26, 1883. Next to be set up was Dresden on the Washita River near what became Berwyn.

Because of the nature of the land and the intruders who came in—many of them under the cloud of lawlessness—the villages which formed remained small. None really developed into a town of any size through its original resources. Ardmore was the exception. Other villages grew slowly until the land rush was over, after which some actually lost residents.

J. W. Orme established Healdton in 1885, though mail had been delivered to the residence of a Mr. Mason earlier. Orme leased land from C. H. Heald and named the town in his honor. The settlement grew rapidly and a cotton gin and mill were established in a short time. Early settlements were made in the Washita Valley in the neighborhood of Berwyn. A ferry known as Henderson's Ferry was established on the Washita River in 1870, a store was opened and a village called Lou grew up. Later the name was changed to Dresden. When the railroad was built through the region in 1887 the station nearby was given the name of Berwyn. In 1941 the name again was changed, to Gene Autry to honor the film actor who acquired a ranch in the area.

In the northwest part of the county was located Elk, a village which grew up as ranching gave way to farming. After 1907 the name was changed to Pooleville in honor of E. R. Poole, a resident. Today Pooleville is a ghost town.

Fifteen miles northwest of Ardmore a settlement



IN FRONT OF THE GENERAL STORE AT BERWYN



CHRONICLER OF THE TIMES—George Norris who moved to Oklahoma Territory in 1892 has been a writer who has devoted much time to setting down on paper the events of bygone times. He constantly is recalling incidents and boosting a worthy cause in his column in the Daily Ardmoreite.

erupted and was called Newport. In the heart of a farming area it served as an important spot in the county until industrialization took over.

Another of the pioneer communities was Hewitt in the western part of the county. By 1885 there was a school there and when Ringling Railroad was built Hewitt was passed and the new town of Wilson began.

The cluster of farm and ranch activities also accounted for the town of Lone Grove which came into existence in the 1880's. Under the Curtis Act the town was incorporated in 1898 and the town still caters to a trade territory.

When Oklahoma became a state in 1907 a portion of Pickens County was renamed Carter County in honor of Ben Carter, a prominent Indian of the Chickasaw Nation. Ardmore became the seat of the new county.

In 1913 oil on a paying basis was discovered in the western part of the county and the valuation was raised 200 per cent in less than 10 years. Within a few months after the production was reported the entire physical, social and industrial scene of the county had changed.



EARLY LAWMAN—John B. Jones served for many years as deputy U. S. marshal under Ben Colbert before statehood.

"THE GOOD OLD DAYS"

On Sept. 1, 1955, a letter was written to Sam Blackburn, editor of the Daily Ardmoreite. Most of it is printed here because it gives a concise eye-witness account of the last century and the way that particular eye-witness feels about "the good old days" in relation to the present and future.

I was quite interested in an article appearing in your column a few days ago. You pictured a boy, I believe six years of age, looking out on a world which he had no part in making, and wearing a sort of sad expression resulting from the terrible situation in which he found himself.

This incident caused my thinking to revert back to another six-year-old boy who, with his family, moved to Ardmore, Indian Territory, in the month of November, 1889, and to the world in which he found himself at that time.

He looked out upon a world which had no public school system. There were a few subscription schools in Ardmore, but none in the country. Most of the teachers were well qualified, in that all of them could read and write, and some of them had some idea of mathematics, most being able to add, subtract and multiply. At any rate, the greater part of the people were illiterate and thought they had no need for an education . . .

As I remember it, there were no churches whatever, although almost immediately after our arrival the Southern Methodists, the Baptists, the Presbyterians and the Cumberland Presbyterians commenced the erection of churches.

There were no bridges . . . no paved sidewalks or roads. As a matter of fact, in the year 1907, at the time of statehood, a trip to what is now Ringling, and was then Cornish, required the opening of 12 gates. The roads were only passable in dry weather, and then the dust was almost suffocating.

But to get back to 1889. We had no telephones, no electric lights, no gas, no sewers, no scavengers, except the hogs which ran hither and yon, up hill and down dale, and over the streets, alleys and yards that were not fenced. Naturally, we had no radios, no televisions, no automobiles, very few sewing machines, no bath tubs, no water except from individual wells and cisterns. No milkmen, and many, many other things we take for granted in this great world of ours were totally lacking in 1889.

A few of the things we had then were fleas, lice, bedbugs and malaria, typhoid, tuberculosis, smallpox, diphtheria and other diseases which have since been mastered and entirely or almost entirely obliterated.

Other things we had were wooden walks, some high, some low, some wide, some narrow; we had gun fights, killings, thievery, robbery and other crimes in profusion. We had child labor. Our women did their washing with, at most, a washboard, their ironing with a sadiron; they swept the house with a broom, if they had one; they cleaned their lamps after the rest of the family had retired. They cooked over a hot cook stove if they had one, and if not, they cooked in a pot in the yard.

We had an apple and a banana at Christmas time,

and in season we had vegetables, peaches, grapes, blackberries and dewberries. No one thought of having tomatoes, green beans, peas, corn, okra and such vegetables the year around. And of course, the thought of fruit out of season was unheard of. For you know we had no refrigerators, very little ice, and no way of preserving perishable fruits and vegetables . . .

When I look out and see what the people of my lifetime have provided for the six-year-old of today, I feel proud that I have been a part, although a very, very small part of it. Need I recount the principal items: schools, churches, beautiful homes, wonderful stores that bring the merchandise of the world to the feet of the people in as small a city as Ardmore; food from the whole world, every day, in perfect condition, and in quantity. Paved roads, paved streets, paved walks, transportation such as the boy of 1889 could not even dream of, opportunities for service such as were unknown in the 1800's.

When I finished business college, I went in search of employment. I got it, but I got no salary with it. I worked two months for nothing, and then I received \$15 per month. After some time, I obtained new employment at \$400 a year, and when I married in 1906, I was receiving the munificent salary of \$100 per month, and there were not too many who could match it. Ordinary workers, when they could get work, were paid 10 cents an hour, or a dollar a day for 10 hours work. Those were the good old days.

Another vast difference between 1955 and 1889: The 1955 budget of the Community Chest for the city of Ardmore alone was fixed the other day at some \$63,000 and that it will be raised I have no doubt. I venture the opinion that the entire territory that is now the State of Oklahoma could not and would not have raised \$5,000 for benevolent and charitable purposes in the year 1889.

Oh, but it is said that the people were so much better in those days. It is true, the women wore long skirts. It is true there were no automobiles to park along the highways. It is also true that an area from three to four blocks wide, and reaching from the south side of Main Street beginning at the Santa Fe tracks and extending to the easternmost limits of the city was occupied by houses of prostitution. The criminal courts, after they were finally established at Ardmore in 1893, were busy all the time. The jail was filled to capacity practically all the time.

It is true the women went to church regularly, but the greater part of the men felt it was sissy for them to do so, and they stayed away in droves. In this connection, I noticed in some responsible publication just a few months ago that the churches of the United States have the greatest number of members, percentagewise, they have had in their entire history. Some people seem to think this is evidence we are being taken over by the Devil. To me, it is evidence the Spirit of Christ is working in the people to a degree never before known. Men are not ashamed to go to church. The school children of today are able to take charge of, and conduct a religious service that is entertaining, instructive, spiritual and elevating to a high degree. We hear a great deal about juvenile delinquents. We had them in the good old days, but we did not have youngsters who could and would go into our pulpits such as is done today.

I envy the youngster of today, as the world of electricity, uranium, and other forces are opening up before him, having at his command schools that are able and anxious to open the doors to the wonders that lie before him. May God guide and direct him as he reaches out to attain the heights that are accessible to him.

Respectfully,
J. E. Williams



POST OFFICE AT ARDMORE IN 1895





FROM WOODEN RIGS TO TEST TUBE METHODS

Oil has played a valuable and important part in the history of Ardmore and will continue to do so in the future as new sources of supply of petroleum continue to be found in the southern Oklahoma area.

An unknown prospector is credited with first finding oil in the Healdton area in 1888. He drilled a shallow test in S½ of 5-4s-3w, but capped the well and disappeared into the pages of history—unknown but not forgotten.

The search for crude really started in this area when H. B. Goodrich, geologist for Santa Fe Railway Company, looked over the possibilities for oil in the Wheeler sector of Carter County. Goodrich came here from Houston, Texas, in 1903 and was the first commercial geologist in this territory.

As a result of his work the Wheeler Field was discovered. Some of the first wells in that area are still producing, and new wells are still being drilled in the field.

However, the big boom didn't start until the fabulous Healdton Field was brought in on Wirt Franklin's land in 8-4s-3w in August of 1913. The well was drilled by J. M. Critchlow of Titusville, Pa. It produced 25 barrels of oil daily from 920 feet. Others associated in the venture were Roy M. Johnson and Edward Galt.

Although it was a small producer, it started frenzied activity in the Healdton area. The second well, located one-half mile north of the pool opener, produced 300

barrels of oil a day and by November of 1914 there were over 275 producing wells in the Healdton sector.

Second largest field yet found in Carter County is the Hewitt pool. The Texas Company's No. 1 A. E. Denny, in NE NW NW of 27-4s-2w, produced 410 barrels of oil daily from pay sand at 2,100 to 3,134 feet to be the discovery well on June 5, 1919.

One of the largest wells actually gauged in the state was in the Hewitt Field. In 1924 the well located in 21-3s-2w flowed 12,800 barrels of oil daily. Total depth at the site was 2,940 feet.

Other early fields that have helped make Ardmore one of the important oil centers in the state are Fox, Graham, Bayou and Brock.

In recent years much of the oil activities in this area has been created by companies going back into the old fields and finding new horizons at lower depths.

Around 11 per cent of all the oil wells in the state are located in Carter County. There are over 7,750 producing wells in this county which means that there are 10 producing wells to the square mile on the average.

Ardmore, besides housing numerous independent and major oil company offices, is the site of the Ben Franklin Refinery. It has the largest payroll in Carter County with the exception of the Ardmore Air Force Base.

Around 180 men and women are employed at the refinery.



NATURAL OIL SPRING—Roy M. Johnson, right, pioneer independent oil operator who is still exploring and producing in Carter County, views

a natural oil springs with Bob Stuchul who drilled first producer in 1905. Oil springs such as this one were the forerunner of the big strike.

IT HAPPENED LIKE THIS

BY ROY M. JOHNSON

In 1907, there was a call to have a weekly Republican paper started in Ardmore. I was called up from Beaumont to look the situation over. The streets were being paved with local asphalt, which was secured just southwest of town. I knew that was a dead oil sand and thought there should be some more oil around Ardmore. I did not know that President Bedford, of the Standard of New Jersey, was reputed to have said he would "drink all the oil this red bed country could produce."

After running a newspaper and printing office for a few months, I met an odd character called Captain Cook. He was drinking most of the time, and spent a good deal of time in my office. He told me if I would take a trip with him, he would show me where there was oil to be discovered to the extent of hundreds of millions of barrels. I asked my friends about him and they told me to pay no attention to him as he was crazy and would bother me to death. After several years of importuning on his part, in November, 1911,



CLEMSCOT IN 1926

with Edward Galt we hired a livery team from Cathey Stables and, after great difficulty and traveling all day, camped on what is now the edge of the Healdton Field. The next day Capain Cook showed me water wells with oil. I came back to Ardmore and finally in February, 1912, I was able to borrow \$2,000 at 12 per cent on my printing equipment.

Edward Galt went over to McAlester and signed up Carrie L. McClure, E. T. Richards and Million & Thomas, who owned land in what is now Healdton Field.

I then tackled Wirt Franklin (who looked after 400 acres of land in what is now the Healdton Field) for an oil lease. When I told him I had already got the McAlester land he consented to put in his land if I would take him and Mr. Apple as my partners. He pulled open his desk drawer and showed me blank leases made out covering the lands owned in McAlester. The leases were made out to W. M. Babcock, who had been sent out here to check this country by Humble Oil Company, a little \$150,000 Houston company.

A few months later, P. C. Dings, president of the Bankers National Bank, induced W. M. Critchlow, representing Scotch capital, to agree to drill a well on the Wirt Franklin farm in what is now the Healdton Field. Mr. Critchlow had drilled several dry holes in southern Oklahoma, in Carter and Love Counties, and agreed to make one more try.

H. P. Nichols, a drilling contractor, was hired and spudded in a test well in the NW/4 of Section 8-4S-3W, in July, 1913, near a pond of water that bubbled with gas. At a depth of 900 feet oil was found and after several days commenced flowing oil.

Wirt Franklin, Ed Galt and I formed the Crystal Oil Company to replace the Plains Development Company, a partnership in whose name the original leases were taken. Shortly after the first well came in, a contractor came into the office of the Crystal Oil Company and said he had a string of idle cable tools east of Duncan. We gave him a contract to drill 10 wells. The contractor was Bill Skelly.

Shortly after the Healdton Field came in, the Crystal



AT THE PULLING UNIT—This photo made near Healdton in 1918 shows Neil Lewis, Noah Rounds, Robert Davie and Sam Henson.



LLOYD NOBLE RIG NO. 1—This is what the crew looked like on July 22 in the Fox Field on the Noble rig. Lloyd Noble is standing on drilling

platform at left. Seated at right is George Kinnitz who is general superintendent of Noble Drilling Corporation in Tulsa.

Oil Company sold a half interest in 1,000 acres to the Twin States Oil Company, a subsidiary of the Sun Oil Company, and their representative here was L. S. Dolman, who originally drew up the first oil and gas lease acquired by our original group at Healdton. The Sun Oil Company still operates the properties which it acquired from us.

Mr. Critchlow and his associates formed the Red River Oil Company and built up considerable production. In 1915 the first World War occurred. At the same time the Cushing Field came in and export oil was cut off. Oil dropped to 30 cents a barrel. The local producers, under the leadership of Wirt Franklin, formed a conservation committee. As a result of their efforts, conservation measures were enacted by the state legislature, requiring equitable taking of oil. Under the law, a pipeline company could run no more oil from their leases than they bought from the independent producers adjoining them. The first pipeline was built by the Magnolia from Addington in February of 1914. The first posted price was \$1.03 a barrel.

One of the largest and most successful operator groups was composed of P. A. Chapman, R. M. McFarlin and J. A. Chapman, afterwards organized as the McMann Oil Company. P. A. Chapman was the father of Sen. Fred Chapman, and J. A. Chapman



BLOWING IN AT HEALDTON



DRILLER L. A. WILSON AND TOOLDRESSER EDD WARD IN HEWITT FIELD, 1920



DAVIS NO. 1 EMPIRE GAS & FUEL NEAR FOX IN 1923



RIG BUILDING CREW IN WIRT FIELD ABOUT 1918

was his brother. In 1916 the McMann Oil Company sold its holdings for \$36,000,000 to the Magnolia. In 1915 the Red River Oil Company sold its holdings to Roxanna Petroleum Company, a subsidiary of Shell Petroleum, being their first production in the Mid-Continent area. The Crystal Oil Company was sold in 1916 to Sinclair, being the first production acquired by the newly organized company then being formed by Harry Sinclair. Westheimer and Daube owned farms in what is now the heart of the Healdton Field and operated very successfully their own properties.

In 1912 Sidney Hernstadt from New York bought various tracts of land in southern Oklahoma, at government sale of unallotted lands. Although they had only a few tracts in the Healdton Field, Sidney Hernstadt and his brother, Bill Hernstadt, operated as the Gilmer Oil Company and developed extensive holdings, which they still operate.

Gunsburg & Forman from Buffalo, N. Y., acquired a group of leases and were very successful in their operations.

In 1915, when oil was selling for such a low price, the Peoples Refinery was organized with Eastern capital to lay a pipeline and build a refinery at Gainesville. About the same time the Texas Company laid a line from Fort Worth to Healdton.

Waters Pierce Oil Company also laid a line from Fort Worth to Healdton. With all these added outlets, there was a good market for oil produced in this district.

Also, at the unallotted land sale in 1912, John Ringling, of circus and railroad fame, acquired several tracts of land which proved to be in the Healdton and Fox Fields. These properties are now owned and being

operated by John Ringling North.

Jake Hamon, a citizen of Lawton, accidentally met John Ringling in New York in 1912, and he sold him on the idea of building a railroad from the Santa Fe to Ardmore toward Waurika. The silver spike was driven by Jake Hamon and John Ringling in July, 1913. The starting of this railroad was fortunate, both for the railroad and the producers, for the following month the discovery well at Healdton came in. The Ringling Railroad was sold over 20 years ago to the Santa Fe Railroad.

With the coming of the railroad, 160 acres of land was bought by John Ringling in Section 2-4S-3W. Previous to that, there was a little town of Healdton, located just east of what is now the main part of the city. Town lots were sold and the people moved from Old Healdton to New Healdton. A townsite was also acquired near Hewitt and called Wilson, after the vice president of the Ringling Brothers Circus. A townsite was laid out north of Old Cornish and named Ringling, which resulted in the inhabitants of Cornish moving to Ringling.

The Ringling Railroad originally was built just to Ringling. After the development of Healdton became more extensive, a branch was built from the Healdton Junction north into what is now Healdton.

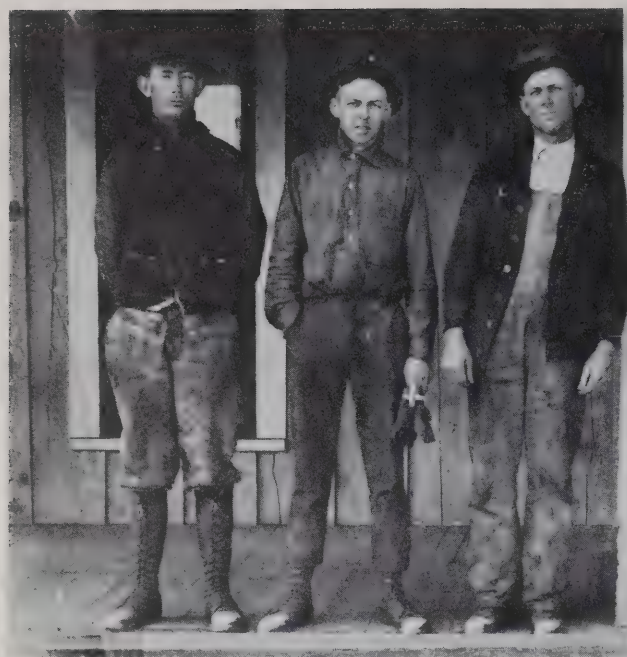
Since oil was first discovered at Healdton, the Ardmore and surrounding territories have produced some one billion barrels of oil in such places as Healdton, Hewitt, Fox, Graham, Scholem Alechem, Tatum, Tussy, Brock and other fields. In addition, the geologists estimate there are a billion barrels of oil yet to be produced as a result of recent new discoveries and deeper development of old fields.



HEALDTON OIL FIRE A HALF MILE NORTHWEST OF TOWN ABOUT 1919



MAGNOLIA LEASE IN WIRT IN 1924



WAY BACK WHEN—This picture was taken about 1922 at Rexroat bunk house north of Wilson. Left to right are Henry H. Pass, Roy Kilchenstein,

Miller Dixon, W. C. Liddell, Red Withrow, Dave Walker, Walter Low and Lem Holder. Crews such as this one brought in the wells in the district.



WEST OF MAGNOLIA CAMP IN 1918



BIG GAS WELL AT HEALDTON



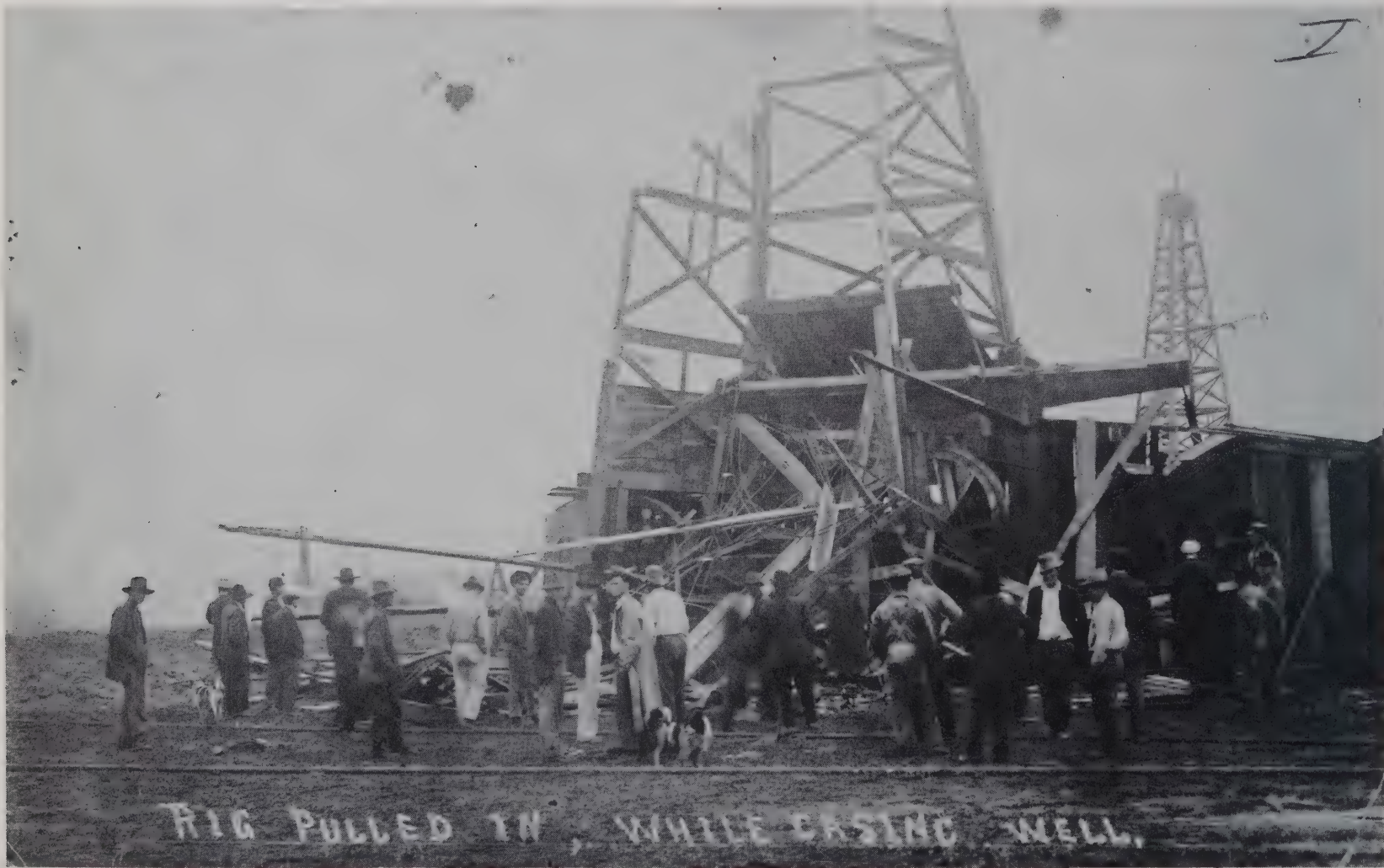
BUILDING EARTHEN POND FOR OIL STORAGE WEST OF HEALDTON IN 1916



LEASE IN THE VICINITY OF WHAT IS NOW BALL PARK ON WIRT ROAD



CABLE TOOL DRILLING RIG ON KEWANEE LEASE IN 1919



RIG PULLED IN WHILE CASING WELL



OPERATING REMOTE-CONTROLLED PUMPING UNIT TODAY



DOWELL EQUIPMENT IN OKLAHOMA OPERATIONS IN 1935



WHEN DALTON WAS A SCOURGE

"They're bringin' Dalton in on a wagon."

That was the news which reached an excited but relieved Ardmore back in 1894. Bill Dalton had been killed.

For weeks in the spring of that year officers had known that a band of thieves had centered headquarters in the country between Healdton and Elk and the section had been closely scanned since the big bank robbery by the Dalton Gang at Longview, Texas.

A man who called himself Herbert Wallace, and two strange women, came to Ardmore on Thursday, June 7 and soon they poured some \$200 into the merchants' tills. The women gave their names as Mrs. Brown and Miss Pruitt.

As the trio moved about, watchful deputies shadowed them and nabbed Wallace at the express office where he obtained a package. The package contained three gallons of whisky and, in the style of the day, Wallace was arrested on a charge of "introducing." He and his companions were jailed.

The officers found that the visitors had bought an unusual amount of rifle cartridges, dress goods, jewelry, groceries and a complete camping outfit.

Almost at once Deputy Lindsay and Deputy W. B. Freeman, who had made this arrest, formed a posse. The members were Los Hart, J. H. Leatherman, C. R. Denton, J. M. Reynolds, D. E. Booker, W. C. Freeman, W. H. Glover and E. W. Roberts.

The group rode all night and arrived at Wallace's house about 8 a. m. the next day. The deputies divided into two groups, each taking a ridge from which the surrounding area could be observed.

A couple of times during the study of the surroundings the two groups mistook each other for intruders and a tragedy of the two squads firing on each other narrowly was averted.

Soon children came out of the house to play and women appeared in the yard. A slow advance was made by the deputies and within 200 yards of the house a woman driving a herd of calves came upon one of the squads.

After her first surprise she beat a hasty retreat to the house. The officers closed in just as Dalton sprang through a rear window right under the barrel of Hart's gun.

"Surrender," Hart called.

The fugitive had a different idea and dashed for the nearby timber. Hart gave Dalton another chance to give up, but the outlaw only reached for his gun.

Hart fired a shot and a bullet went straight into Dalton who crumpled and made but one convulsive movement, to turn over from his face to his back.

Lindsay spied an armed figure at a window and fired, but the figure disappeared and was not located.

Lindsay ordered the women to leave the house and they took shelter in the barn. Officers entered but found the place uninhabited. Everything was in order. A money sack with the brand of the Longview bank was found and about \$1,700 recovered. Money lay about with no attempt at concealment.

On Dalton was found \$285. His identity was established by a pack of letters found in the trunk of Mrs. Dalton, alias Brown.

As the wagon bearing the body of Dalton came to a point about five miles from town the cortege came upon Mrs. Dalton and Miss Pruitt who had been returning to the hideout.

Mrs. Dalton denied knowing the dead man but later, when her composure broke, she admitted he was Dalton and her husband.

Practically all Ardmore turned out to form a reception party for the officers and the dead outlaw. More than 1,000 crowded around the old Appolas undertaking parlor to view the remains of one of the West's most notorious figures.

All that day and for a full week, folks came in from miles around to look at the body and to stand around discussing the capture. Some said it wasn't Dalton, however, others who had seen him identified the remains. Longview bank officials also tabbed the dead man as the one who had robbed their bank.



FLAMES EAT AT WIRT IN 1915

'Ragtown, U.S.A.'

More than 40 years ago, Wirt was a community of clapboard, sheet iron and tent houses which served as homes for a type of men whose dreams of riches were spurred on by the marvels of oil and what it could do.

"Ragtown, 50 cents," was a familiar cry which rang out in the business district of Ardmore day and night as barkers sought to fill their "busses" with travelers to the hub of the oil activities. The barkers took up places at strategic points in the street and it usually didn't take them long to get a load of passengers.

Within the town of Wirt lived the lust and greed which can only come with a country growing by leaps and bounds. Also, within it lived visions of the future as men battled nature to produce oil and wealth.

It was a sprawling, brawling and littered commu-

nity with life being lived at its fullest. Many an adventurer lost his life over a difference of opinion, a muttered word, too many drinks or some other cause promoted by quick tempers.

The slick-tongued horse trader made his presence known early along with the clever-fingered gamblers, the gunmen, the speculators and other types which automatically are drawn to spots where the fast money is being made.

Almost overnight Wirt mushroomed into existence as the oil seekers drifted in. Then, as the craze of the hunt began to lessen and the oil industry in that section began to stabilize, the workers moved on to other fields and Wirt became a community of those who chose to stay and make their homes there.



ONE OF WIRT'S MANY BUSY SPOTS



OLD COLONIAL BEGINS TO BURN



WIRT RESIDENTS HURRY TO GET AWAY FROM FURIOUS BLAZE



LOOKING AT THE SMOKING REMAINS IN WIRT IN 1915

THE TOWN THAT WAS ALWAYS BURNING

The little combination justice of the peace-insurance agency office of Judge O. B. Orr in Wilson is a peaceful looking place. The judge himself has always been a peaceful man and the town of Wilson itself is peaceful.

But the tenant of this office can really relate some hair-raising accounts of things he has seen in the past if a person can find him. He's usually at his office, the post office, the Wilson Hotel which he owns or visiting with a neighbor along Wilson's main drag, but he moves pretty fast and is sometimes hard to catch.

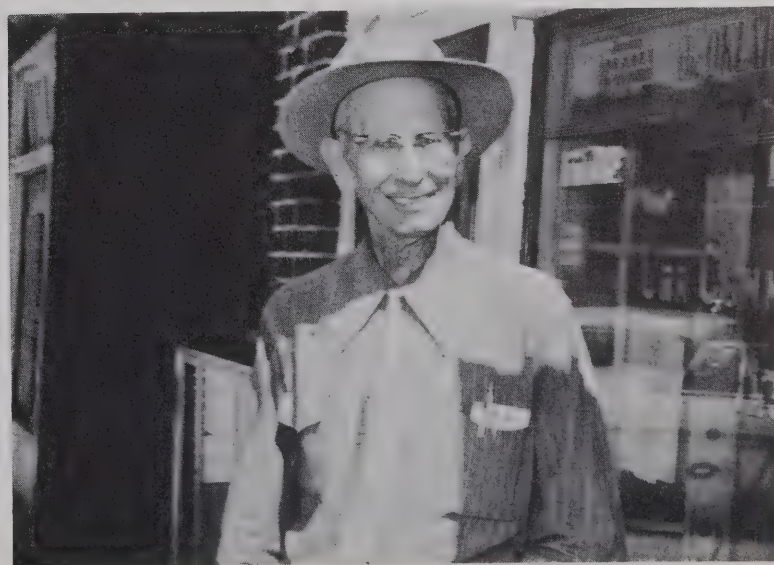
The judge, everybody calls him that because he has been a justice of the peace for 24 years, came to Wirt in 1916 to work in a tailor shop. His boss, an old-timer who had been there about three weeks, immediately started telling him about all the killings taking place. The judge had been in town but half an hour when he saw a character shoot a man who was sleeping in a car.

Ruinous fires were forever wiping out the business district of the lusty Rag Town, as Wirt was often called. But folks can eventually learn to adapt themselves to almost any environment. For instance, the judge tells of the time a fire was raging through the shack businesses. A gambler walked into the street and took a look. He knew the flames would eventually reach his place. "About three hours away," he remarked as he strode leisurely into his busy casino, picked up the phone and ordered enough lumber to build a new building. Then he rounded up a crew and had them set his furnishings in the street at the last minute. Came the fire. The crew then went to work raking the coals off the lot and worked all night throwing up the new

building. The gambling hall opened at six the next morning.

Judge Orr lived through these wild days without ever getting into trouble himself. He attributes that good fortune to the fact that he did not drink or gamble—and to a large amount of good luck. He doesn't want to see the old wild, free-wheeling days again. "Prosperity just isn't worth it." He likes things as they are now. "Only had two fines so far this year and they were for minor offenses."

The judge moved to Wilson in 1916 as an express agent and soon became justice of the peace. He's happy he stayed in Carter County—and so are many, many other people.



JUDGE O. B. ORR



WAITING IN LINE AT U. S. POST OFFICE AT WIRT



RIGS SUCH AS THIS DID THE HEAVY HAULING



WHEN COTTON WAS KING IN CARTER COUNTY

COTTON, CATTLE AND CONFLICT

Back in 1887 the "sod-busters" or dry farmers were just coming into the Indian Territory and they arrived in most cases in covered wagons with a cow or two and chicken coop tied on behind. They were not welcomed at first, although the new citizens, for the most part, were law-abiding individuals.

The farmers had been preceded by the cattlemen whose herds grazed the open range. Fences were unknown and the ranchers resented the intrusion.

During the next few years the wars between the cattlemen and sheepraisers raged and it wasn't until things began to simmer down that the cowmen and farmers gradually became reconciled to one another, finding they could both live in the same world.

About this time, the first sulky plow made its appearance in the territory and a man could plow while he was sitting down. This was one of the first innovations of the mechanical age and scientific agriculture.

In those days the farmers didn't go to the government for help; they worked out their problems as best they could among themselves. Illiteracy was almost synonymous with farmer then, when 90 per cent of the people lived on the farm and the majority of them could neither read nor write.

With the introduction of the tractor, farming began a new path of progress and the development accelerated. At the time cattle raising in Carter County had

given way to cotton and corn farming. The farmer raised cotton for money and corn to feed his animals and make corn bread, a chief element of the families' diet.

The Spanish-American War provided the area with its first boom as money began to appear more freely. What is now West Main in Ardmore was often so crowded with wagons of cotton that pedestrians had to squeeze through to get to the stores. Cotton was the crop and the cotton farmer was the backbone of the region.

During World War I cotton went up to almost 50 cents a pound and the revolution to mechanical farm implements was rapid.

The boll weevil crept into the region at the height of prosperity and whole crops were wiped out. No one knew what to do and this was further complicated by hard times which followed the war. Many farmers went broke, gave up the battle and headed for new lands.

By the early 30's when the New Deal took notice of the farmers' plight and offered aid and instruction, farmers in Carter County had largely quit trying to raise cotton against hopeless odds.

In the meantime the land had been neglected and erosion had eaten away much of the topsoil. While the panic was on many farmers lost their farms and



4-H GIRLS AND THEIR CHAMPIONS AT SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW



PREPARING FAT STEERS FOR SHOWING IN ARENA AT ARDMORE COLISEUM



W. L. (UNCLE BILLY) WILSON FAMILY ON FARM IN 1912

companies took them over. Tenant farmers, careless of conserving the land, made no improvements. This neglect was largely because of lack of scientific understanding. So the United States Department of Agriculture began a long program of education and training.

Farmers learned the value of crop rotation, fertilization, terracing, flood control, soil conservation and water retention.

Carter County agriculture again reverted to cattle. Ranchers found they had to rebuild pasture land by planting legumes, clover, vetch and other crops to replace the once luxuriant native grass which had been plowed up by the tenant cotton farmers and left to the mercy of the elements.

Terraces and ponds were constructed and the washed and eroded hillsides and creek banks began to take on a modern look as the barren red clay gulches filled in and put on a new garb of bright green cover crops.

Purebred herds of Herefords, Angus, Guernsey and other newer breeds now roam the countryside.

The dairy farmers found prosperity in the modern sanitation and equipment. Refrigeration and rapid transportation has aided distribution. Modern veterinary medicine keeps down disease and reduces financial risk in herd reduction as well as loss of product.

Modern medicine also has made great strides in the field of swine and poultry production and these endeavors have been successfully pursued in the county.

During the years agricultural organizations have played an increasingly important part in making farm-

ing and cattle raising a paying proposition.

The Carter County Soil Conservation Service, with offices at the fairgrounds, is administered locally by a Carter County board of directors with the aid of a service agent. This agency of the USDA is primarily interested in soil conservation, drought relief and flood control.

Coordinated with the effort of this office is the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation office whose local committee is elected by the farmers and stockmen of the county who, in turn, appoint an office director or manager to carry out policy of the committee on the local level. This office has supervision over acreage reduction and wheat allotments in addition to many practices carried out in legume planting, cover crops for pastureland, construction of terraces, ponds, dikes and ditches.

In the field of finance on a larger scale, the Farmers Home Administration office is always standing by to assist those who have been unable for reasons beyond their control to obtain financial backing for a particular enterprise.

The FHA was organized first in 1935 as the Rural Rehabilitation Administration and between that time and 1937, more than 800 farm families in the county applied for assistance.

Coordinated with these USDA offices is the Carter County Agent's office which is integrated with the Oklahoma State University Extension Department, the Oklahoma Agriculture Department, and the State Health Department.



ACTIVITY IN THE JUNIOR FEEDER CALF PROJECT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



VOLUNTEER WORKERS—Businessmen such as these give of their time to make the annual Junior Livestock Show a success. Left to right are

Newton Flora, former assistant county agent; Bill Martin, real estate and oil dealer, and Robert Batis, First National vice president.



JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOWS

One of the greatest youth activities in Ardmore and Carter County is the annual junior livestock shows for Future Farmers of America and 4-H Club members. The annual Carter County junior show is held about the first of March and is followed by the Southern Oklahoma Junior Livestock Show. Both are sponsored by Ardmore Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the county agents and FFA coaches.

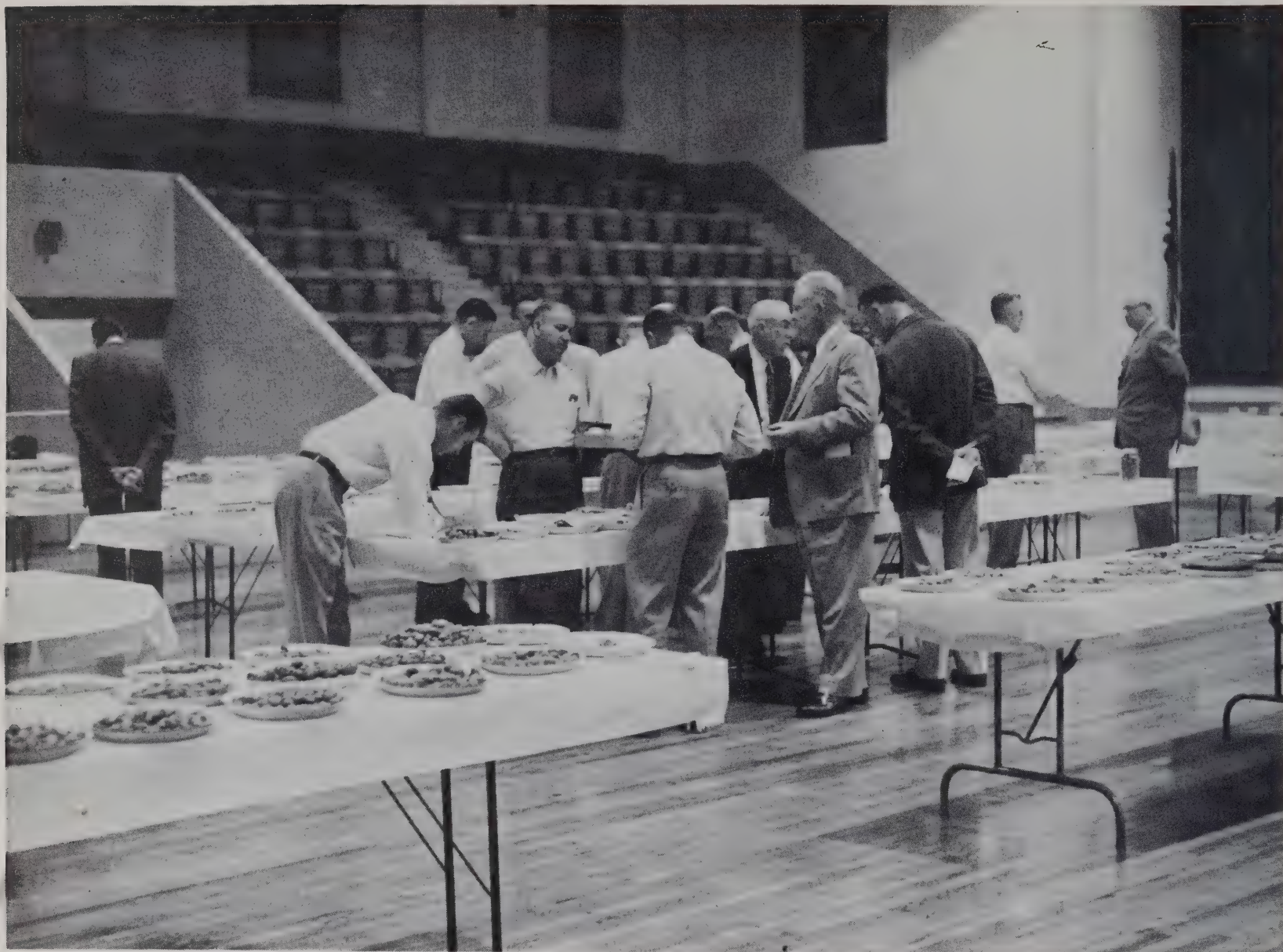
The first junior show was held 18 years ago, and it has been growing in size and importance through the years. Location is the Ardmore fair grounds and coliseum. Judging and sale of the steers, swine and lambs is held in the huge arena of the coliseum. The animals are housed in six huge barns behind the coliseum.

Dozens of volunteer workers from all parts of Carter

County who are interested in welfare and training of farm and ranch youth give their time and work every year to operate the livestock shows. Business and professional men, ranchers, and just ordinary citizens donate money for the big auction sales at end of the shows to pay premiums to the boys and girls and help them break even or make some profit on their livestock projects.

Through the years thousands of boys and girls have shown animals in the shows and have gone on to become leading men and women in Carter County and elsewhere. Many exhibitors have gone from Ardmore to state shows and won top prizes. The Ardmore livestock shows are known as some of the largest and best in Oklahoma.





JUDGING EXHIBITS DURING 1956 PECAN SHOW IN CIVIC AUDITORIUM

OKLAHOMA PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Carter County is one of the main pecan producing counties in Oklahoma and was the scene of some of the earliest developments in pecan improvement in the state. Thirty to 40 years ago, transplanting and grafting and budding of pecan trees were practiced in the Ardmore area. One of the famous original papershell trees, the "Oklahoma" variety, is located a few miles northeast of Ardmore.

In 1924, the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association was formed at Ardmore. Official charter was granted in 1927, and most of the charter members and officials were Ardmore men. Annual meetings were held here for many years and then headquarters for the association were moved to Oklahoma A&M College at Stillwater and the meetings were rotated to various pecan producing sections of the state.

Pecans, both seedling and improved varieties, have been an important source of income through the years for all Carter County towns. The Ardmore area is still a pecan center through continuing improvement of orchards and pecan research carried on by the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation.



HEALDTON 4-H GIRLS



A BEGINNING—Prior to 1887 when the town of Ardmore came into official existence the 700 Ranch House had long been a known point on the site. It was located in what is now southeast Ardmore and was head-

quarters for a cattle outfit which moved into Indian country and set up operations. Little remains today of the old building which was once important.

ARDMORE, CENTER OF COMMERCE

Railhead in a wild country, trading center for a myriad of nationalities, haven for the lawless, a prize plum for the speculators, and a town with a future—that was Ardmore in the early days of the Chickasaw Nation when the Indians were being pushed steadily into the background and the white man was moving in.

From this rough exterior the men and women of another era hewed the foundation of what today is one of the most progressive seats of commerce and industry in Southern Oklahoma.

The years of civic "growing pains" were difficult ones, often marked with adversity and disappointment. At times the obstacles seemed unsurmountable as the residents looked on the ashes of this town, sighed and then dug in to rebuild a better community. This spirit of practical pioneering has been a trademark of the region and it continues to be evident in modern times.

The tiny settlement came into being to the tune of the railroad builder's swinging mallet as hard-living construction crews pounded the spikes which held the steel rails and opened up a new way of life in one of the last frontiers.

Some bought this land on speculation, others bought it with a sincere desire to build a community and establish a business.

It was in 1887 that Ardmore was founded as the Santa Fe extended its line from Gainesville, Texas, and established a station. The location chosen for the town

was on the Old 700 Ranch property which had been owned by Richard McLish, A. B. Roff and L. P. Atkins. From out of the grassland the crude buildings began to rise, rough structures in light of today's buildings, but serving a purpose back at the time.

The railroad company was granted much of the right of way for the line by the government as concession for opening up new territory. Some of the rights of way were as much as a mile in width and since the company did not need that much, the unwanted portions were sold. This practice led to the development of townsites.

At the time, the only other dwelling in the area was the Douglas family home which had been built in 1886.

Before the building of the railroad Gainesville had been the supply point for all of the ranches south of the Arbuckle Mountains. A wagon road led from Fort Arbuckle to Gainesville. With the arrival of the railroad the Ardmore area rapidly was transformed. Until this time, ranchers were content to let their cattle graze the fenceless lands, but now the word townsite began to take on new meaning. There were lots to sell and money to be made.

It was in the first week of May, 1886, that the railroad surveys reached the future site of Ardmore.

In his thesis on Ardmore, Paul Frame reports that at this time one George B. Douglas, a Texas contractor,



BUSINESS WAS BRISK AT THE ROUND BALL GIN



SEAT OF GOVERNMENT—For many years this old red brick building was an Ardmore community government center. The combination city hall and

fire station was located on the site of the present city hall and was the scene of many exciting developments in the town.

and his family were living in a two-room log house near the intersection of the present B Street and Sixth Avenue, S. W. In 1886 he built a double log house on his claim and erected a stockade and sheds.

An interesting sidelight on just how townsites were decided upon is provided by Frame who wrote that when the Santa Fe surveyors arrived Douglas made them welcome, furnished food and water and friendship. Then he asked the head surveyor to move the location line for the railroad about 100 feet east of where it had been surveyed, so as to miss the Douglas home and well. The surveyors obliged and this resulted in a curve in the tracks leading into Ardmore from the south.

About a half-mile north of the Douglas place the surveyors drove a stake—that became Ardmore.

There are several stories relating just how the town names were selected at that time. One generally accepted is that the railroad officials, who were from Pennsylvania, had been naming towns in honor of a local resident. As they entered the southern part of the territory they changed their policy and named the towns after settlements in their native state. Thus, Ardmore was chosen for the new station.

Records show the tracks were laid into Ardmore during July, 1887, and on July 28, 1887, the first Santa Fe engine puffed into the station with a trail of cars containing building supplies.

Main Street was laid off in July, 1887, by Jim Staples who used a tongue plow to mark a furrow in the prairie for a quarter of a mile west of the railroad tracks. Other men who helped to lay out the first streets were Dr. H. J. Yarbrought, Walter Wheeler and D. D. Flow.

One of the first stores in what became Ardmore was built by Frank and B. B. Rensley. It was a general merchandise store and the building was finished July 28, 1877. With the railroad bringing in supplies and settlers, other stores appeared and it was not unusual for stores to operate in the open or under protection of canvas until a frame building could be constructed. A well-known store, called "The Iron Store," was estab-

lished in 1888 and owned by Munzeheimer and Daube.

The stores gradually extended east and west from the depot and the town rapidly was becoming a market center. By 1890 a population of some 2,000 was reported.



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POST OFFICE

Most of the early merchandising firms were credit firms designed to help the farmers and cattle raisers. When the produce was brought to town it was sold to the merchant and in return the farmer received payment either in cash or, more frequently, in credit for merchandise to be purchased at the store.

Hardware stores, harness shops, boot shops and other stores catering to the wants of frontier life flourished.

The public water supply was furnished by a well in the middle of Main Street.

There were no paved streets and, depending on the weather, it either was muddy or dusty. Hogs, of which there seemed to be a profusion, roamed the city and slept under the buildings. Cotton ginning and selling, coal and asphalt mining and newspaper publishing were the primary industries of the town before statehood.

A federal district court was established in 1890 at Ardmore when the court dockets from Paris, Texas, and Fort Smith, Ark., became so filled with criminal cases from Indian Territory that the government sought a court nearer the frontier. This court brought additional business to Ardmore and made it somewhat of a legal center.

Establishment of the court necessitated the building of a federal jail. The jail consisted of little more than a stockade enclosing a low frame building. The guard walked atop the stockade to keep vigil on the prisoners milling below.



CITY HALL



AERIAL VIEW OF FAIRGROUNDS AND PART OF ARDMORE

The cases tried in the federal court at Ardmore were for years predominantly criminal but the civil work also grew during the years. With the court opening, many new attorneys were drawn to the town and other professional "helpers" were always handy to prey on the unfortunate prisoners.

The first white settlers in the area followed an agricultural, rural existence. Cotton became one of the principal products and the farmers within a radius of 50 miles brought their crops to Ardmore.

Sources generally agree that the town took the lead as a cotton market and was reportedly one of the largest in the world in 1892. More than 50,000 bales were sold in the town in that year and old-timers recall seeing Main Street teeming with wagons piled high with cotton. Bales were set in the open on other streets. At times it was a task for a hardy man just to squeeze through the clogged streets.

About two years after the founding of the town another industry emerged and the Santa Fe invested several thousand dollars building a spur track to a coal mine employing about 75 men. The mounds of the mine can be seen today a short distance southwest of the office to Lake Murray Park. Four attempts were made to make this mine a paying investment for the owners between 1888 and 1942. The Sydney Ford family moved to the mine before 1890 and a member of the family, Brownie Ford, was one of three men who reopened the mine in 1942. Ford and his partners abandoned the 1942 effort because of water problems.

C. I. Bodine was the original promoter of the mine and convinced the railroad it should build the spur line. The mine was equipped with an underground railroad with small cars that were pulled out by a steam windlass to the tippie, where they were dumped into railroad coal cars.

After Bodine failed to keep the mine open it was taken over by a group from Pennsylvania and a number of miners were imported from that state. They mined for a year or more and a settlement of some size was located around the mine. The Pennsylvania group abandoned the project in 1893.

E. F. Ainsworth was the next to open the mine and

had Bill Brown as superintendent. The spur track was gone by this time and Ainsworth decided it wasn't feasible to haul the coal to the railroad and finally gave up the effort.





15
AFTER THE BIG FIRE OF 1895

Ardmore progressed rapidly from 1887 to 1895 but it was at this point that the citizens were to suffer their first town-wide setback—the big fire of 1895. The blaze started on Caddo Street just west of the railroad tracks and ran uncontrolled through the business district. The flimsy nature of the buildings fed the rushing flames.

More than 80 buildings were consumed by the blaze.

Mrs. B. E. Davis (the former Clara Mansfield), who now lives in Mangum, recalls the fire vividly. Mrs. Davis, who came to Ardmore with her family in 1894 says that at the height of the fire her mother pushed her sister, Connie (now Mrs. Jim Young of Gene Autry), in a baby carriage up Main Street ahead of the flames. Mrs. Davis says she was hanging onto the carriage and her mother during the speedy trip as the trio outdistanced the flames.

No lives were lost in the blaze but certainly the destruction was heartbreaking to the residents who had been able to accumulate holdings under difficult circumstances. Soon after the fire was out a new and better Ardmore began to rise in the form of more substantial buildings.

The fire also had another beneficial result, it furnished the impetus for formation of a fire department for the town. The first steamer was purchased at a cost of \$1,800 and was named in honor of L. L. Stoew. The first officers were John S. O'Mealy, chief, and Bud Conlee, assistant chief. Twenty-five volunteers completed the department.

The first subscription school was established in 1888

and churches also were being formed rapidly.

Asphalt mining began in the area about this time with the opening of Chickasaw Asphalt Company near Woodford, northeast of Ardmore. A few years later the Downard Mines were opened three miles southwest of Ardmore. The asphalt was found in beds of sand and "stripping" methods were used to take off the dirt and get to the sand which was processed and the asphalt sold in a raw state or made into paint.

For a year's lease on each mine, operators paid the Chickasaw Nation \$500. There also was an additional 10 cents paid for each ton of asphalt sold.

Baseball was about the only sport receiving much attention in the early days. In 1893 Ardmore had a team, the Browns, which played Denison, Sherman and Gainesville in Texas plus Madill, Pauls Valley, Duncan, Lone Grove and Roff and other towns in Oklahoma. In those days there were no professional players and the team was composed of the clerks, druggists, and other businessmen of the community. Games were played whenever they could be arranged.

For a short time during 1899 horse races were held at Whittington Park.

The Ardmore Weekly Courier was the first paper in the town and was established in 1888 by J. M. Wilson and F. L. Antrim. The first daily was the Daily Advertiser which appeared Sept. 25, 1891, and was sold to the Ardmoreite in 1893.

Federal Judge Hosea Townsend of the Federal District Court issued an order on April 16, 1898, decreeing that the town of Ardmore be incorporated as a city of second class. John L. Galt was the first mayor under

Ardmore Wind Bag

VOL. I.

ARDMORE, I. T., SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 1895.

No. 12

ARDMORE DISASTER

The Business Portion of the
City in Ruins

THE MOST CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF THE LOSS IS
PLACED AT \$500,000.

One Hundred and Thirty-One
Places of Business Destroyed.

INSURANCE ESTIMATED AT
\$250,000.

A Complete List of the Business
Places Burned.

At 1:20 o'clock Friday morning a fire broke out in the Harper & Cecil livery stable on North Caddo street, which spread therefrom both north and south with great fierceness. As no complete list of all the sufferers has yet been published, we give the following as near as we can obtain them at present:

MAIN STREET—SOUTH SIDE.

A. Moss, dry goods.
Charles Simmons, billiard hall.
J. N. Barall, general merchandise.
Barber shop.
McGee's meat market.
A. Kloski, two stores—grocery and dry goods.
W. F. Whittington, two story brick, dry goods and groceries.
J. A. Mays, insurance office.
N. H. McCoy's collecting agency.
M. Wheeler, groceries and feed.

Tom Noland, billiard hall.
Roe's meat market.
J. H. Palmer's restaurant.
Burch & Anderson's opera house, two story brick.
Kearney & Wyse, hardware.
W. A. Payne, groceries.
Williams & Pennington, two story brick building.
Brown's auction house.
Dr. Von Keller's office.
Dr. J. L. Littell's office.
Dr. J. L. Wood & Son, dentists.
Alliance Courier, total loss.
Ardmore Job Printing House, J. W. Gollidge, proprietor, total loss.
Will Boyd's sleeping apartment.
Major G. T. Glenn's sleeping apartment.

WIND-BAG newspaper, Stephens & Co., total loss.

Ramsey & Ross, druggists.
K. Carson, the jeweler.
Joe Biggars' fruit stand and lunch house.

Joe's fruit stand.
Davis' barber shop.
Texas billiard hall.
H. Conley, shoe maker.
J. L. Johnson, saddlery and harness.

J. A. Morgan, sewing machine agency.

Dr. J. F. Robinson, general merchandise.

J. W. Davenport, groceries.
A. F. Pyeatt's meat market.
I. Goldsmith, cigar maker.
Charley Durie, agricultural implement dealer.

J. A. Cox's racket store.
Central hotel, Mrs. Helder proprietress, two story frame.
J. Stofa, merchant tailor.

H. S. Wiseman, general merchandise, two story brick.
John Flemming's law office.
John Hinkle's law office.
Robert H. West's law office.
T. H. Parker, jeweler, two story brick.

Commissioner A. Walcott's office

McKelvy & Hill's collecting agency.

Hyden & Jackson, groceries, two story brick.

J. H. Stauffenberg, merchant tailor.

Bevins & Williams, general hardware, wagons, buggies, etc., two story brick.

MAIN STREET—NORTH SIDE.

Johnson, Cruce & Cruce, law office.

J. F. Gwinn, general blacksmith.

T. B. Johnson, coal dealer.

Masonic Temple, three story brick.

Ladbetter & Bledsoe's law office.

Douglas & Douglas, architects.

Barry & Norman's law office.

Dr. Ben F. Garrison's office.

Dr. Bogie's office.

London & Banks, booksellers and stationers.

G. M. Yarbrough's music house.

Ben F. Garrison's drug store.

Mrs. A. Rawlons, milliner, Frank Frensley building.

Mrs. Pranter's shooting gallery.

T. N. Coleman's drug store.

Randell & King's land office.

R. Ifield & Son's insurance office.

Dr. Folsom's office.

Dr. Booth's office.

Ardmore Wind Bag.

Stephens & Co., Publishers.

SUBSCRIPTION 50 CTS. PER ANNUM

COURT STREET—WEST SIDE.

T. B. Johnson's meat market.
John Steed's restaurant.
Chinese laundry.
Campbell, Fowler & Kendrick's law office.
United States court house and jail.

COURT STREET—EAST SIDE.

Ardmoreite, daily newspaper and job printing office, two story frame.

C. B. Kendrick's law office.
Boyd & McBride's billiard hall.
J. B. Smith & Co.'s two story brick building.

MAIN STREET—NORTH SIDE.

C. A. Whitehurst, dry goods and groceries.

Rennie & McClure's law office.
Dick & Brown's law office.
Stephens & Co.'s real estate office.

Lum Johnson's insurance office.
Alex Pannell's real estate office.
Mike Sneed's sleeping apartment.

Fielder Bros., general merchandise.

W. O. Duston, Big Cash Store, dry goods.

J. B. Spragins & Co., hardware, wagons and farm implements two story brick.

M. E. Wyse, general merchandise.

O. Milner's barber shop.
Wallace & Wallace, fruit and restaurant.

J. W. Randol, general merchandise.

George Frasher, cream bakery and confectionery.

C. M. Spiegle & Co., confectionery and restaurant.

Clark's barber shop.
Ardmore Hardware company, two story brick.

A. Felkner, groceries.
J. C. Thompson's law office.
Dr. Alvis' office.

Dr. Adams' dental office.
O. W. Patchell's law office.
Dr. A. C. Bell's office.

Frame & Green's city drug store, two story brick.

Riner & Scivally, dry goods, millinery and groceries, two story brick.

J. N. Jordan's shoe shop.
Bottoms & Hamilton's shoe store.

W. S. King, jeweler.
Palace drug store, two story brick.

Parker, Noble & Colbert, wholesale groceries, two story brick.

R. Hardy's two story building.
Drs. Hardy & Seafie's office.

Stones & Dent, printing company.

Potterf, Hardy & Hardy's law office.

Dr. A. E. Walter's dental office.

NORTH CADDIS STREET.

Nebo's meat market.
Douglas' barber shop.
Abbott's pool hall.
Hams & Sloan, groceries.
Harper & Cecil's livery stable.
J. C. Meachim's grain and feed store.

City restaurant.
Havens' blacksmith shop.
R. T. Dallas, groceries.

MILL STREET.

Judge J. C. Gibbons' court room.

Austin Bros'. blacksmith shop.
W. F. Whittington's two story Sherman House.

Chickasaw Machine Works.

DAMAGED.

The City National Bank, two story brick building.

Glenn & People's dry goods store.

Frankfurt Bros'. dry goods store.

First National Bank, two story brick.

The Wisnor Hotel, three story stone structure.

Johnson, Cruce & Cruce's brick, occupied by the postoffice and J. S. O'Mealey.

Maxey Grocery Company.

W. C. Downing's photo gallery.

The law offices of Herbert & Lewis, A. Eddleman and Judge Stuart Dennie were warmed up over the two banks, and when the window glass began to break it was thought they would go, but they only of all the legal fraternity in Ardmore, occupy their old offices.

The Ardmoreite is going to put in a new office at once. We have heard many expressions of regret as to the destruction of our lively little daily. It was one of the best and most popular institutions in our city and was liberally patronized by our people. Its editors are plucky and will get out an issue as soon as they can get the material together. The city can not do without the Ardmoreite. Brothers Wilson & Parker have our sincere sympathy and we will bet \$50,000 that they are in the game again inside of a fortnight and we offer them anything we have left. Come over brothers, we have not got any crystalized sobs to offer, but you can chew our gum and exterminate our benzine and squirt tobacco juice while we buy the tobacco. We have a 1 column rule and a shooting stick left and we intend to get out the WIND-BAG in spite of fire, the devil and adverse circumstances. We like the grit of the Ardmoreite and as long as there is a clean corner on the office towel you can use it.

The poor fellow who was burned in Harper's stable will recover.

Mr Golledge of the Alliance Courier was absent from the city when his plant was destroyed.

Thursday the WIND-BAG was worth \$11,000,000. Today we will take \$3.75 for it and throw in the shooting stick.

Yesterday while prowling among the ruins of our magnificent offices we became exhausted and sat down on a rock. The rock was still hot, and we got up again quite spontaneously. Our pants ain't fire proof.

The WIND-BAG should have appeared yesterday, but as it has been recognized as the great religious weekly, it was deemed best to issue the same this Sabbath morning in its curtailed form.

Golledge's Ardmore Job Printing House was entirely destroyed by the fire. We are informed that Mr. Golledge will at once make arrangements to procure another plant and soon be in running order.

Six thousand dollars insurance on \$25,000 worth of goods! What a parody on sound business methods. Yet such was the condition of one business firm.

J. M. Golledge's cornice works and tin shop at 127 North Caddo street, had a pretty close call, but by almost superhuman efforts the establishment was saved, and Golledge is strictly in it and fully prepared to furnish any article in his line at his usual moderate figures.

Harper's livery stable was a horrible sight after the fire, the carcasses of twenty-eight horses

burned to a cinder, sickened and shocked the beholders. A large crowd stood around in morbid curiosity. Mr. Harper is financially ruined by the fire, as he had no insurance.

Stones & Dent have lost their job plant. We can only express our sincere regret, as nothing we can do or say will lessen the catastrophe. We can only hope that this misfortune has not seriously crippled them. When we look around and see the universal ruin to our friends, we are stunned into silence. But we think the Ardmore of the future will repay us for the misfortunes of the past. The only thing we are sorry for is that we did not get to steal more winter goods—as it is we are pretty well supplied, thank you.

The WIND-BAG is busted. Thursday night it was a fully developed fire. We put it in in Ramsay & Ross' safe and having it full of good religious reading felt secure, but the plans of newspaper men "gang aft a-gee." In the dark hours before the dawn, the fire king wrapped his mantle of smoke wreaths around it and sticking out his blazing tongue licked the stuffing out of it. We do not know for certain, but we found the safe blown all to pieces and suppose the explosion of the WIND BAG did it.

We have been estimating our loss. A careful inventory discloses the fact that we have lost 1 paste pot, 1 pair of scissors, 1 office towel, (been in use since the war) and it had also been used by our devil as a Sunday handkerchief, 1 Duncan Binner, and a picture of Lord Oakum of the Gulf Colorado and Calamity R. R. given us when we ran for the

office of rainmaker for the Pan handle. The devil lost a diamond ring, but he can easily replace that.

During the fire we saw one man running swiftly west of Main street with a joint of stove pipe tenderly stored away under his arm. We suppose that it was all that was left of his hardware stock. Another man carried a 200 pound anvil fifty yards from a burning shop, and a girl was seen nursing a flat iron. The WIND-BAG got excited and carried a pile of brick out in the street and then piled on our jackets with \$5000 worth of general merchandise and went home. We have got the goods hid under a gooseberry vine out in the Garrison addition.

Ardmore is in ruins, scorched by the hot blast, rolled up and crinkled by a breath more invincible than the deadly cyclone. Our city is a desolate, ghastly skeleton. Walls are all that remain of the hard years of trial and perseverance. After it is too late we can recognize the fact that we builded unwisely. We have no water works we have no modern conveniences for conquering the fire fiend, and the consequences are appalling. Today our Indian Queen is in mourning, caused by our heedlessness. When will the fool accumulate wisdom and the wise profit by bitter experiences. How simple the figures that teach us that \$10,000 invested in water works is better than the desolation following in the wake of the fire king. Five hundred thousand dollars in material wealth consumed, terrible suffering caused by the wreck of bright hopes. A bitter lesson is taught by the one significant fact, that not one dollar has been expended in an effort to protect our property. But we are not the kind of people who sit and whine over the unavoidable. Brave hearts and strong hands built our city and the same courage and strength will rebuild it.



FIRST FIRE DEPARTMENT—This group made up Ardmore's first fire department in 1895. Included are O. M. Reffield, George Lawrence, W. R. Cullen, J. S. McMealey, P. B. Conlee, T. Y. Morgan, W. A. Payne Mr. Dor-

chester, J. W. Scanlon, D. A. Fielder, T. V. Dollins, T. C. Cobb, R. H. Nichols, Cyrus Pyeatt, Horace Kendall, Will Smith, Sam Mortiz and James Weeks. The fire of 1895 made evident the need for such a department.

the system. Other initial officeholders were Jack Scanlin, treasurer; W. M. Green, assessor and collector; J. C. Graham, city attorney, and C. P. Van Denberg, A. J. Wolverton, W. T. Gardner, Mike Gorman and A. M. Birch, aldermen.

On December 4 of the following year Ardmore was incorporated as a city of first class under the mayor and aldermanic form of government. In 1909 the Ardmore aldermanic form of government was changed to commission form.

The Dawes Commission ordered in 1901 that the city of Ardmore be surveyed, a job that lasted one and one-half years.

After the survey, the residents were allowed to buy their land at 50 per cent, later increased to 62½ per cent, of its appraised value.

Prior to this time, most residents were actually little more than squatters, tenants of Chickasaw citizens who rented or sold occupation rights to them for a relatively trifling sum.

Dick McLish had laid claim to much of the present downtown Ardmore. Other part-Indian citizens who granted squatters' rights to the original settlers included Tom Atkins, Bill Watkins and Ben Carter.

In 1890 Farley Richmond agreed to pay Ben Carter \$5 per year for several lots for which he received a patent (deed) after the survey for \$80.

Nobody seems to remember the name of the railroad engineer who had first divided Ardmore into blocks in 1887, but the surveying party of 1901 was headed by J. Joyce Jr., a federal engineer. Others on the team included Sam P. Matthews, Tom Matthews, Sug Snider, Julian Burney, Bert Carr, Henry McCoy, Posey Everts, Fred Trask, Bill McClain, Andy Gardenhire, Otto Bradford, Von Dollins and Dan Boone. Sam Matthews served

as city engineer from 1924 to 1951. His father was issued a patent for a whole block at 10th Avenue N.E.

Hugh Johnson was the first Ardmore city engineer, installed soon after the townsite survey which set the town's area at 2,257 acres.

Other engineers who served before Matthews took over in 1924 include a Mr. Myers, Walter C. Dean (later mayor of Oklahoma City), Fred Watson and A. B. Payne. Matthews was succeeded by Glenn Wilson and the Ardmore city engineer in 1956 was Loren T. McKee.

When satisfactory agreements concerning the land were reached the confusion which had previously existed over ownership began to die down. The population of Ardmore and the county increased rapidly between 1904 and 1907 when statehood arrived.

The city director of 1904-05 lists the population of the county seat at 10,329. There also were listed seven free school buildings, 25 teachers, two daily papers and four weeklies.

The directory for two years later lists the following city officials: R. W. Dick, mayor; G. H. Bruce, clerk; Joe Pate, treasurer; Caswell Bennett, attorney; John Caudle, assessor; W. C. Dean, city engineer; W. Brodnax, water and sewer superintendent; D. W. Butcher, street superintendent; John L. Galt, police judge, and J. C. Chennault, city physician.

Councilmen were G. W. Stuart, A. L. Cruce, I. R. Best, J. M. Shelton, R. W. Randol, J. R. Pennington, Charles D. Carter and Frank Berryhill.

Sam Noble, W. S. Wolverton and John Yell were on the board of equalization. Buck Garret was chief of police and officers were Arch Campbell, R. G. Shaw, Tom Carter, Enoch Boucher, Banks King and J. M. Chancellor.

L. C. Slaughter was fire chief. Fire department mem-

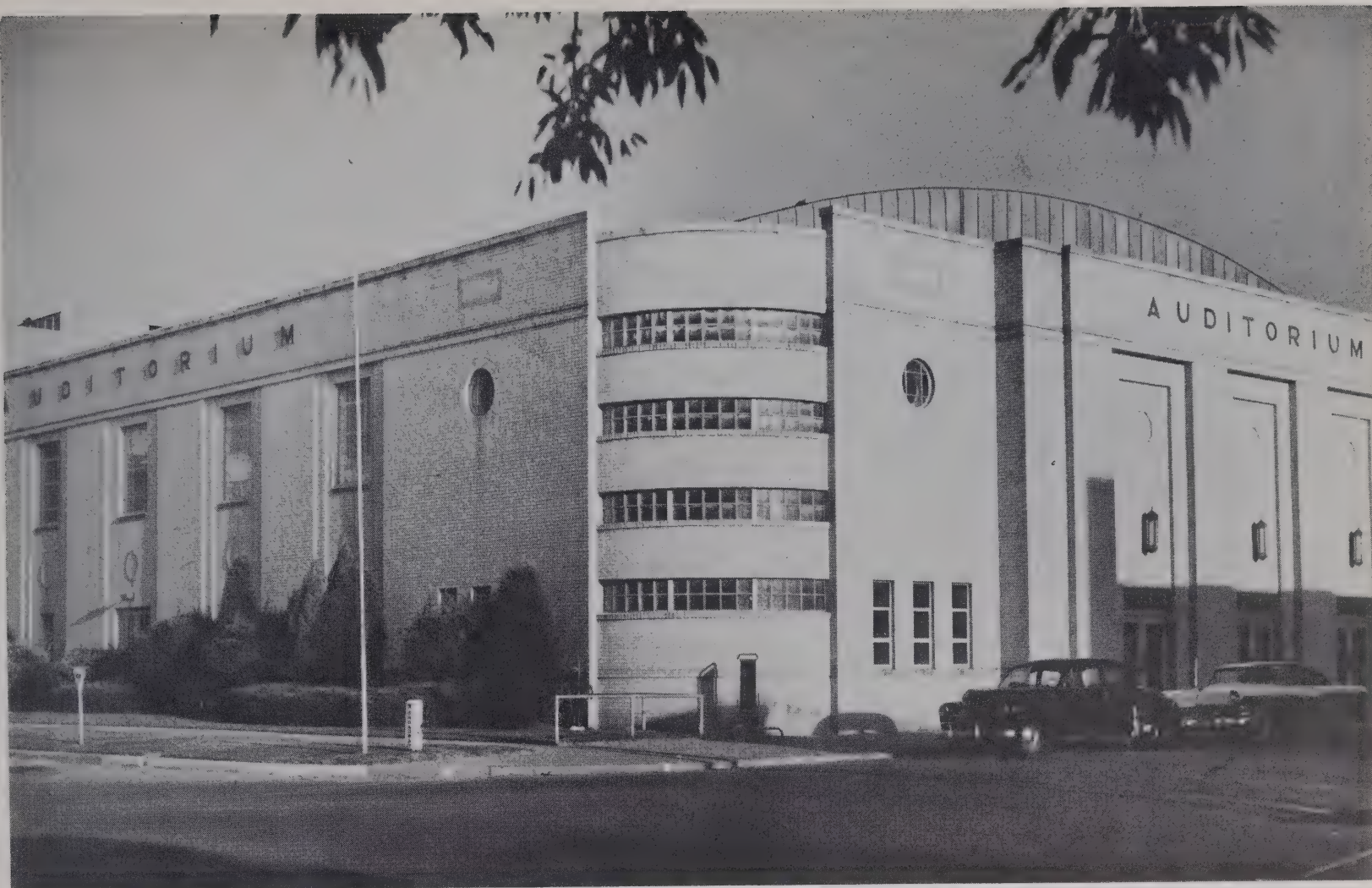


BOXING MATCH—This picture was made in 1912 and shows a couple of unidentified boxers in the arena in the Roberson Building on S. Washington. Choc Price is the young man with the match in his mouth on far left.

Next to him is the late Earl Cross and back of Cross is Arthur Juhan, Banks King, Charley Head and John Dorrah. The club was the first boxing club in Ardmore.



READY FOR THE BELL



AUDITORIUM

bers were John Hartnitt, Ben Sewell, Walter Hooks, Joe Roberson, Jewell Tippitt and Will Roberson.

When oil was discovered in the county in 1913 the city of Ardmore again took on a new appearance. It became a center for the frenzied activities which marked an oil boom. This brought industry, speculators and more trouble with those who would disregard the law.

The oil activity also hastened the bringing of good roads and Ardmore served as the hub of transportation as freight lines and other service organizations rapidly developed.

John Ringling, of circus fame, was beginning a railroad at this time proposed to extend from Ardmore to Waurika but it passed several miles south of the oil field. Demands came for adequate transportation from the oil fields. An interurban route from Ardmore was surveyed and construction plans drawn. The Santa Fe promised to consider a branch line south from Lindsay. The new Ringling road reached a point southwest of Healdton near the old village of Cornish where the town of Ringling was established. Ringling decided to extend a spur north to a point near the Healdton oil activity and a town, to be called New Healdton, was located a mile west of Old Healdton. Jake Hamon selected the site and laid out the town.

In 1915 Ardmore suffered its second town-wide setback when leaking gasoline ignited and the downtown area was turned into an inferno. More than 40 persons died in the fire and much of the business district was reduced to rubble. Once again the residents tied into the job of rebuilding and once again a better community resulted.

As the oil field activity had increased so had the lawlessness and in 1914 a Law and Order League was formed in Ardmore and demanded law enforcement. An investigating committee from the league declared the town was "alive with lawlessness, exhibiting itself in gambling, whisky selling and disorderly houses."

The condition continued to worsen and in 1920 crime in the oil fields was completely out of hand. Robbery was a common occurrence as were gambling, bootlegging and general disorderly behavior.

During the fall and winter of 1920-21 the wave of terror took on even greater proportions. Citizens appealed to the attorney general for an investigation and early in 1921 the Ku Klux Klan appeared.

Several ministers and civic leaders took the lead in the battle against vice and Dr. Charles Christian Weight, a Presbyterian, headed a committee to see Gov. J. B. A. Robertson in 1921 asking aid and a pledge of co-operation. Ultimately the upheaval against crime resulted in the ousting of Buck Garrett as county sheriff and Ewing London was appointed to the vacancy in March, 1922. Several other officials resigned during the period of conflict. As the oil fields spread over a larger area and the population stabilized as the boom disappeared many of the undesirable lawbreakers drifted off to greener pastures.

After 1925 the oil activity in the county began to level off and decline. During World War II the fields did a large service in helping supply the oil which was used in this country's battle for freedom.

As the years went by Ardmore continued to grow and become a good place in which to live, make money

and raise a family. Beautiful churches and up-to-date educational facilities began to dot the area. Stable businesses continued to grow and new industry was lured to the county seat.

The volume of gas produced from the fields within the Ardmore trade area has increased since 1945. Agriculture in the area is broken down generally into three types of production. In order of importance from a money standpoint, there are livestock, cash crops and livestock products. Since 1940 there has been a general shift from cash crop farming to livestock production.

An adequate electric and water system have been

developed to make the city attractive to newcomers and provide a talking point in drawing additional business houses.

The city government has operated under the home-rule council-manager plan since 1921. Financial support for city functions is derived principally from the municipally owned water department.

Experts say that the future growth of Ardmore depends largely upon its ability to develop industrially. The available manpower, economic resources and geographic location of the city are favorable assets for industrial growth and it is believed that local effort will in time accomplish that expansion.

Mayors of the City of Ardmore from 1897:

Name	Term of office
John L. Galt	1897 to 1899
W. T. Gardner	1899 to 1901
J. C. Thompson	1901 to 1902
R. W. Dick	1902 to 1908
J. R. Pennington	1908 to 1909
J. A. Cotner	1909 to 1911
D. H. Dawson	1911 to 1913
W. R. Roberts	1913 to 1915
L. V. Mullens	1915 to 1916
O. C. Lasher	1916 to 1917
W. R. Roberts	1917 to 1918
Joe F. Williams	1918 to 1919
W. F. Freeman	1919 to 1921
Kirk Dyer	April 1921 to June 1921
R. A. Hefner	1921 to 1926

A. Eddleman	September 1926 to October 1926
S. A. George	October 1926 to May 1931
C. F. Adams	May 1931 to August 1931
George P. Selvidge	1931 to 1933
W. H. Batis	1933 to 1935
W. D. Taliaferro	1935 to 1937
P. M. Jackson	1937 to 1939
E. E. Denton	1939 to 1941
Quinn Wicker	1941 to 1943
James L. Dolman	1943 to 1945
T. G. Johnson	1945 to 1947
Fred Horn	1947 to 1949
Herman Hunt	1949 to 1951
Fred Hicks	1951 to 1953
Clifford Johnson	1953 to 1955
Ab Jolly	1955 to 1957
George P. Selvidge Jr.	1957



CITY LAKE AND WATER PLANT



TREE-STUDDED PARKS FURNISH BEAUTY

Ardmore has some 14 parks, but the oldest, Whittington, is still the most widely used.

The city did not acquire title to Whittington Park until 1902, but it had been used for recreation and relaxation as long as there had been an Ardmore. The town's first birthday party was held there back in 1888 and it is still the site of the yearly birthday party on July 28.

Back around the turn of the century, these parties lasted for as long as three days. Everyone got thrills or chills as the balloon pilot made like a monkey from a horizontal bar suspended from the rising bag. There were rodeos, horse races and the inevitable "speakin's." The Ardmore Reds often provided baseball entertainment in their eye-opening red suits as they met the team of a neighboring town and provided material for many an off-the-cuff bet by the sporty element. There were square dances and many games and contests designed to please persons of every age. And there was food, lots of good food. Sometimes there might have been lots of whisky, too, which had probably been smuggled in on the Santa Fe by local citizens, many of whom seemed hard on shoes, judging from the uncommonly large number of shoe boxes they carried in their arms on the train from Texas to the Indian Territory. It is said that there were sometimes thousands of covered wagons from all over southern Oklahoma parked at Whittington Park on these occasions.

Mrs. Lulie Walcott, who came here in 1893 to attend the wedding of the future governor, Lee Cruce, and who first met her husband at that wedding and moved to Ardmore a year later, recalled in a recent interview that the annual birthday party was the event of the year.

Tourist Park was purchased in 1911. Cars were becoming popular and every town, of any size was trying to cash in on the tourist trade by providing camping

facilities. Tourists are still extended a hearty welcome, but not when they set up housekeeping in a public park, and this practice did not last but a few years. Tourist Park comprised block 344 on West Main Street just east of the present National Guard armory. It is now leased to the Girl Scouts.

Central Park was acquired in 1910 from the heirs of Bob Lee, early day Ardmore lawyer.

Fraley Park, named for pioneer Charles Fraley, became a city park in 1924. It is located just east of Washington School and contains one of the two Reed wading pools. Mr. Reed, a wealthy Kansas City businessman, provided Ardmore with two such wading pools, the other being at Whittington Park. The city matched Reed's financial contribution and the pools have proved popular with the toddlers.

Selvidge Park, located at the end of D Street, N.W., was acquired in 1932, the gift of George P. Selvidge Sr., and other residents of that section.

Oakland Park is at the end of East Main Street in what is now known as the City Park addition.

E. A. Walker presented Ardmore with two parks in 1934 and 1935 that have been valuable and useful gifts—Walker Stadium, adjoining the city along Highway 70 on the west edge of town and Walker Park, which is located on B Street, N.W., between 9th and 10th Avenues. Popular Walker Park has ball diamonds, tennis courts, swings, other playground equipment and picnic areas.

The old Ringling railroad right-of-way is now part of the Ardmore park system. Much of this space is used as a practice field for football teams.

Nath Pack was Ardmore's park superintendent in 1956, and C. C. McGehee was in charge of Wacker Park. Other park employees included Jeff Spradling, Wesley Morgan, Perry Sanders and Floyd Sache.



DAUBES' STORE

Daubes' Department Store, a landmark on the main street of Ardmore, is the oldest business establishment of its kind in southern Oklahoma.

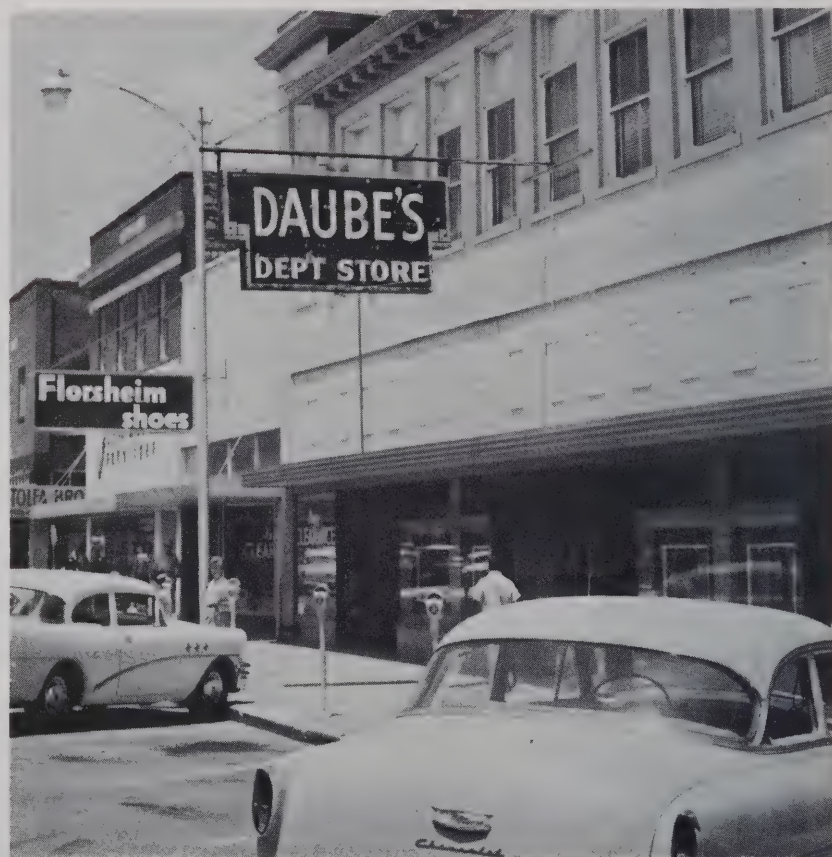
The original Daube store was opened in Bowie, Texas, in 1883, and was owned by Sam Daube.

In about 1888, when the Ardmore area was in Pickens County, Indian Territory, and when Ardmore itself was only a crossroads village, Sam Daube came to Ardmore and entered into a business partnership with Mr. Munzesheimer, who was the grandfather of Jerome Westheimer. Their firm was known as Munzesheimer & Daube and their store was of the pioneer pattern, selling groceries, hardware and implements as well as household merchandise. At that time the store was located east of where the Santa Fe Railway tracks now run. Because of its construction the store acquired the name of the Iron Store, and to all the early settlers from far and wide it became their trading headquarters.

At a later date, Sam Daube joined his brother, Dave Daube, and Max Westheimer, in their enterprise, known as the Blue Front, where Daubes' Department Store now stands. This firm was known as Westheimer & Daube.

Further expansion of the store took place in 1920 when all facilities for merchandising were completely modernized, and the area of the store was doubled. Westheimer & Daube continued in business until 1937 when Sam and Dave Daube acquired the Westheimer interest.

The business is now owned by Leon Daube and Carol Daube Sutton, and to today's customer it offers expanded parking facilities and the same cordial welcome which Daubes' have extended for 70 years.



LOOKING BACK IN TIME

Could this have ever been Healdton? Here is the way this now modern city of fine homes, schools and churches is remembered by some folks who knew her way back when . . .

Mrs. Jeff Fuller beat the railroad to the new town-site, then "just a cow pasture" with one overworked little jitney shuttling back and forth from Ardmore. Her family lived in a tent for about nine months, but it was a "nice tent" with two rooms, window screens and a real floor. In 1917, the year after they arrived, they took in boarders to help ease the terrible housing shortage. The town was pretty wild then, and one of the first non-oil businessmen to arrive was an undertaker.

B. R. Beall came in 1918 and lived in the feed storage building of the wagon yard. There was one silent movie house and no churches. Mr. Beall is now manager of the A&P grocery on Main Street.

Bank President Al Jennings says that in the early days there were lots of fires, but no regular alarm system or fire department. So when a fire broke out the men would all fire their guns in the air as a warning and call for help. Probably what was the first piece of fire fighting equipment to be purchased was a two-wheel hose cart and 200 feet of hose.

In 1897 Max Westheimer of the Blue Front Store married Tessie Kalish, daughter of the owner of the Red Front Store, and began a career of business and philanthropy that was to culminate in the eventual creation of a memorial to him—the Max Westheimer Flying Field at the University of Oklahoma.

Max Westheimer was born in Germany in 1867 and came to Ardmore in 1886. In 1887, he, with Frank Wymore, established a general retail store, known as The Blue Front.

In the mid-1890's the interest of Mr. Wymore was acquired by Dave Daube, and this partnership became Westheimer & Daube. However, the store continued to be known as "The Blue Front" until a brick front replaced the then familiar bright blue exterior. Later, Sam Daube joined the concern. Stores were established in Marietta and in Anadarko, Okla., and in Bowie, Texas. Simon Westheimer was associated with the Marietta store.

Mrs. Walter Neustadt, the former Doris Westheimer, and Mrs. A. H. Wells of New York, the former Juline Westheimer, are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Max Westheimer.

Mr. Westheimer was actively engaged in the retail store and as a cotton merchant, rancher, and oil man until his retirement in 1936 due to ill health. At this time the concern of Westheimer-Neustadt was established, with Walter Neustadt becoming the active member.

Mr. Westheimer continued participating in philanthropic and educational projects until his death in 1938.

Mary Evelyn Frost, an outstanding figure in the field of education, has taught for 40 years, two in New Mexico and the rest in Oklahoma.

She received her A. B. degree from Southeastern State College and her M. A. from the University of Oklahoma. Her master's thesis, "A History of Carter County," was among the materials used in research for this book.

Her school experience includes three years in outlying oil field schools of the Healdton system, five years as teacher and grade principal at Dundee, 27 years as principal of Sunset Elementary at Healdton and three years as coordinator and supervisor of the Healdton schools.

She is a charter member of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Healdton, a member of the National Education Association, Oklahoma Education Association, Oil Field Classroom Teachers and Delta Kappa Gamma.

She has been a member of the First Baptist Church of Healdton for 38 years.

The Rushing family came to the Indian country in an old ox wagon and settled down to farming west of Overbrook on Hickory Creek.

The boys went to a school taught by a Mr. Brown. Walter Rushing remembers this institution as a double log house. The Blue-Back Speller and a slate and pencil made up most of the student's equipment.

There was a dirt floor and seats were boards laid across blocks. Boards were also used for sidewalks in Ardmore, then about a block long. Two water wells in the middle of the street stood ready in case of fire and served as watering holes for horses and mud holes to be dodged by the pedestrian.

Hitching posts lined the street. They finally disappeared and came back years later as parking meters.

A well known pioneer family in the Fox-Graham area were the W. M. Kirkpatricks, who settled there in 1903 with their four sons and three daughters.

Four of their great-grandchildren are now enrolled in the school their great-grandfather helped organize, Fox Consolidated. A grandson, William Raymond Kirkpatrick, teaches vocational agriculture at Fox, and a daughter, Eula Lee Kirkpatrick, taught there for several years before moving to Oklahoma City.

The elder Kirkpatrick took an active part in community life. He was responsible for improved roads and bridges while serving as a county commissioner, he gave the principal address at the dedication of the present Carter County courthouse and his bass voice was familiar at community picnics and singings.

During his tenure as a justice of the peace, Mr. Kirkpatrick got out of bed in the middle of the night many times to perform a marriage or attend to some other official duty.



WRECKAGE IN SANTA FE YARDS SHOWS THE FURY OF THE FIRE

THE BLAST THAT SHOOK A CITY

Things were quiet and slow in Ardmore that Sept. 27, 1915. The heat pressed down, activity was at a standstill. Housewives dozed and children in the school listlessly looked out the window and waited for the bell which would set them free.

Then, a vast roar cracked the stillness.

Main Street split wide open. Buildings dissolved into fragments. Houses quivered and Ardmore was chilled with fear.

Frantic for the safety of loved ones, paralyzed with apprehension over the unusual, men and women poured from houses and rushed to the business district.

Flames and smoke fountained from the Santa Fe freight house and union depot. Buildings on both sides of Main tottered with gaping holes in their sides as far west as the present site of Hotel Ardmore.

Stunned persons crawled from beneath the wreckage, blood streaming down their faces, and staggered about



EAST OF THE SANTA FE TRACKS ON MAIN STREET



HOW PEOPLE ESCAPED ALIVE FROM THE UNION PASSENGER STATION WAS A MIRACLE

in a confused state. Bodies lay quietly in the stillness of death.

Volunteer nurses and those uninjured carried the victims to Hardy Sanitarium in the yard of which those less seriously hurt were laid to await their turn for medical care. Total death toll was 49 persons.

Walls were torn from the Whittington Hotel. The wholesale district east and west of the railroads was reduced to ruins. North and South Washington lay under a heap of rubble.

Then the questions began—what happened?

"It was the gas," someone said.

"I knew it would happen. It was the tank car caused it. The car was shunted to a siding near the freight house yesterday afternoon."

"I heard somebody noticed the gas fumes escaping and told the railroad people about it. They were warned," another fellow offered.

"Yes, a fellow was sent this afternoon to cut off the flow of fumes by tightening the safety vaves. That must have been when it happened."

Thus did the comments go the rounds, threading out the story.

Work of the rescue pushed forward at high speed. Special trains up and down the Santa Fe, Frisco and Rock Island brought in a horde of doctors and nurses. Bob McFarlin, oil man, wrote a check for \$1,000 for relief and started an influx of checks from every major oil company within the state. Small donations came in to a quickly formed relief committee.

The next day hundreds of curious came to swell the population and make work more complex. J. M. Hoard, acting mayor in the absence of Val Mullen, declared martial law and Chief of Police Bob Hutchens drafted men to help keep order and prevent looting.



SEARCHERS HUNT FOR DEAD ON EAST MAIN STREET



RUBBLE IN FRONT OF HOTEL WHITTINGTON



IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT

Citizens in every walk of life abandoned ordinary pursuits and rolled up their sleeves to clear away the litter of debris.

Gen. E. P. Ripley, president of the Santa Fe, immediately shouldered the blame for the disaster and asked that a committee of Ardmore citizens be named to pass on all damage claims.

Members of this committee were Lee Cruce, second governor of the state; C. P. Dings, banker; Burt Simpson, wholesale grocer; J. W. Harreld, attorney; J. S. Mullen,

real estate man, and H. C. Potterf, pioneer attorney.

An office was opened for receipt of complaints and the Santa Fe company opened an office across the hall. As soon as the committee had passed upon a claim, either for property loss, personal injury or death, the committee issued a check for the full amount without question and the case was closed.

More than 1,800 claimants were thus satisfied, and not one case ever was protested after the committee passed upon it.



MERCY ENGINE—Old 1108, Santa Fe locomotive on permanent exhibition at Ardmore Fairgrounds, brought doctors and nurses from Gainesville after the first terrific impact of the 1915 disaster. Lawrence O. Freeman was

the engineer and operated the locomotive on regular runs on the Santa Fe main line for many years. The engine is of a type introduced about 1910 and used until replaced by diesel equipment.

OLD 1108 BROUGHT THE DOCTORS

Lawrence O. Freeman plowed his trusty locomotive, the old six-driver No. 1108, on an errand of mercy that fateful day in 1915.

It was the veteran railroader who hogged his engine down the Santa Fe main line at speeds up to 90 miles per hour to bring in the doctors and nurses who worked for hours to quell the groans of agony uttered by the scores who were injured in the catastrophe.

Freeman, who is retired and lives at 620 B, S.E. in Ardmore, pushed his train through fire, hot wires, burning debris and scattered rubble with the throttle wide open and whistle shrilly screaming as his sturdy hand gripped the Johnson Bar and his keen Irish-blue eyes scanned the smoky horizon.

He defied danger in plunging though signals kept open by courageous co-workers in every department of the railroad as they put forth emergency relief to hundreds of injured people in the strewn wreckage of the city.

Freeman, a native of Austin, Texas, longed for ad-

venture in the true spirit of the West when he was a youth and volunteered while still in his teens to serve in the Spanish-American War.

After discharge, he came to Ardmore with a group of friends who arrived broke and hungry in 1898. Jake Bodovitz, who had a grocery on Broadway at the time, took compassion on the former soldiers and furnished them with groceries which they cooked and ate in Whittington Park.

Years later Freeman found some of those same companions still in Ardmore after he returned from railroading in Old Mexico. He then went to work as a fireman for the Santa Fe on the run from Gainesville to Fort Worth.

When his long apprenticeship in front of the firebox was over, Freeman realized a lifelong ambition to operate the throttle. He became a full-fledged engineer and the recollections of those days at the helm of the locomotives still bring a happy twinkle to his eyes as he discusses them.



EASLEY AND THE ARDMOREITE

To attempt to tell the story of the Daily Ardmoreite without telling the story of John Franklin Easley would be folly, for here was a man who worked for the paper over 59 years, 37 of them as publisher.

But it is not just his lengthy service that fuses the story of the paper and the man.

John Easley loved his fellow man regardless of station and his greatest pleasure was in going about doing good for others. He was a pioneer editor without the cynicism, roughness or meanness so often associated with these men who plied their hard trade in times that were often trying—unless one had the faith and energy of a John Easley.

He was born on a farm near the little East Texas town of Henderson in 1872.

Bad crop years made the Easley farm and country store unprofitable and the family headed for the Indian Territory. John was 15 years old when they forded the Red River in a covered wagon with milch cows tied on behind and stopped near the town of Leon.

He had received but two years of formal schooling,

but had a natural yearning for knowledge. By studying between farm chores he managed to educate himself and become a schoolteacher in Texas. He later went to an academy at Whitt, Texas, and taught at other places, including Leon and Cornish in the Indian Territory.

He moved to Ardmore in 1896 and took a teaching position at the Rudisill Business College. This was the year he married Betty Dudley.

In June of 1897 Easley found himself somewhat at loose ends during the school vacation. Besides, he had to make a living.

So he went to work for the Daily Ardmoreite, a little, four-page daily that had been formed in 1892. At a salary of \$25 per month he sold ads, kept books and made himself generally useful. He did not return to the schoolteaching, but made it a project to teach himself all he could learn about the various functions of a newspaper.

There was little world news coverage at that time. A man in Fort Worth would read headlines and stories

over the telephone for the paper's non-local spot-news coverage. Other stories, not so timely, would be rewritten from the large city newspapers as they were needed.

The budding journalist had been on the job only three days when the paper was purchased by Sidney Suggs and there were some moments when Easley wondered if he went with the bargain. He did.

In 1919 Suggs sold the Ardmoreite to a group of oil men. Easley was known to the new owners for the fair and energetic way in which he had reported the oil news, and when the oil men tired of running the newspaper they called Easley in and made him a proposition. He was to be manager with the opportunity of buying the paper from earnings, if any. There were and he did, clearing all the paper's debts within a year.

Thus began the long career of the publisher and southern Oklahoma booster who was to receive many honors, honors which he shied away from because he was always smiling and doing good simply because he wanted to and not to become "Mr. Ardmore" or get in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, both of which he did. He was also awarded the University of Oklahoma Achievement Award.

Ardmore was a rough town where life was cheap in the old days. Easley once described the conditions under which hired killers could be engaged for a standard fee of \$500 and told of the great wave of "score settling" that came with statehood, when schemers got in their pent-up dirty work with the hope that the confusion resulting from the changing from Arkansas statutes to Oklahoma state laws would allow them to escape punishment. Dozens of killings clogged court dockets for years.



JOHN F. EASLEY

But in the next breath he said that most of the people were well-behaved and well-dressed—that if a person minded his own business he got into no trouble. He recalled the Algonquin Club's good times in which most of the young folks joined. The change he remembered best which occurred when the oil boom came was that the streets were cleaned up, buildings remodeled and the whole of Ardmore spruced up.

John Easley pitched in as chamber of commerce secretary during the depression and extolled the advantages of southern Oklahoma. He organized the Ryonis, a woman's civic club; the Farm Congress, a civic organization composed of both city and rural leaders because he felt they needed a closer relationship, and began weekly "community meetings" which were later combined with the Ardmore Birthday Breakfasts held in the park at six a. m., July 28 of each year and followed by entertainment that night. These celebrations have brought much pleasure to old-timers and new-timers alike.

The Daily Ardmoreite has prospered. Radio station KVSO was begun in 1935 and television facilities were added in September, 1955.

A grandson, John Easley Riesen, is now general manager of the Daily Ardmoreite Publishing Company.

For many years the whole newspaper staff would gather each May 13 in John Easley's office to wish him a happy birthday.

May 13 is not the happiest day around the Ardmoreite now, for John Easley died Sept. 29, 1956. But his influence remains, for goodness is eternal.

CHARLES E. FRALEY

Although he died in 1917, Charles E. Fraley is still remembered with respect and admiration by many Ardmore residents.

His name is perpetuated in Fraley Park and his skill as a builder is evidenced in the family home he constructed in 1916 on Third Avenue, N.E. There are no cracks in the brick walls and all of the original interior plaster is still intact.

Mr. Fraley was born in Virginia but came to Ardmore about 1904 with his father, Creed, and his brother, Will Fraley.

After establishing himself here as a builder, Charles built his original home that is still standing and returned to Marshall, Texas, to marry his sweetheart, Hadie Frances Peterman, whom he had not seen for five years.

Fraley did lots of building, including all the original ward schools and all the depots on the old Ringling railroad. The Ardmore depot is now the American Legion building. He also built lots of good will and is perhaps best remembered for the help he gave others.

He accepted a piano as down payment on the home of Publisher John F. Easley. Others paid just a few dollars down.

When times were hard there was a bricklayer who worked for Fraley for \$36 per week—\$18 in cash and \$18 applied as payment for a home the bricklayer had bought from the builder. That was enforced saving, but it certainly was better than a reduction in pay.

THEY WANTED A ZOO, AND GOT IT

In 1950 a group of Ardmore Jaycees decided they wanted a zoo for the community. True, they had no money and no knowledge of zoo management. But, believing in crossing the nearest bridges first, they asked the city council for permission to establish a zoo under the trees in fair park. They were quickly turned down three times.

In the meantime, some of the men had been visiting and studying zoos in other cities. They had been thinking zoo and talking zoo and a zoo they would have — so they persuaded Julian Frazer of the Oklahoma City Lincoln Park zoo to meet with the Ardmore city fathers on their behalf. That did the trick. Frazer put the matter in a new light when he insisted that a zoo would offer both educational and recreational advantages—that it would also bring more trade into Ardmore. The council finally offered the use of the land, the services of a keeper and the underwriting of operating expenses.

So the Ardmore Jaycees had their zoo, but nary an animal nor a cage. These developments brought on an ambitious fund-raising campaign and the men soon found themselves with \$200 in the bank and a Rhesus monkey in—well, there was still no cage in the park, so Buddy Miller stepped up and volunteered to keep the simian funster in his own home until a cage could be built.

Business executives, store clerks and office workers became ditch diggers, wheelbarrow operators and concrete pourers. It's a safe bet that at least one bank teller, Buddy Miller, was right in the middle of this! Jim Murphey, a professional welder, brought his tools as the foundation began to take shape and built the frame and guard rails. "Jaycee," as the monkey had been named, thus became the first resident to be housed at the zoo. The monkey community was soon enlarged by three, courtesy of a Durant automobile dealer, the Oklahoma City Jaycees and the Lincoln Park Zoo.

Hundreds of persons flocked to the fair grounds on sunny afternoons and began returning with their own offerings to add to the menagerie. There were squirrels, foxes, wolves, raccoons, possibly along with some creatures that folks would bring in, point to and inquire "Whatzit?" All needed cages, the Jaycees needed money to build cages and money raising was again in style, taking such forms as dances, style shows and turkey shoots. Animals were lodged in homes all around Ardmore.

Money rolled in and sleeves were again rolled up by the do-it-yourselves; new cages rose fast, spurred by the offer of the Goddard game ranch to donate a deer as soon as suitable quarters were provided for it.

Two boys from Pauls Valley came to town bearing a Canadian black bear cub which had been given to them by an uncle. The Jaycees acquired this bundle of fur for \$15.00 and Buddy Miller—that's right, Buddy

again became guardian until a strong cage could be built. Although largely done by relatively inexperienced craftsmen, construction at the zoo has been permanent and up-to-date, utilizing steel, concrete and native stone in an ever-growing plant that is both practical and attractive.

Before zoo days, G. C. McGehee had been custodian at fair park. He agreed to try his hand at zookeeping, an occupation for which he had had no training. He studied up and found that he and the animals hit it off just dandy.

Animals wilder or much larger than a bird dog are just fine when the owner has a place and need for them; when there is an overpopulation of one kind or when there are no facilities for caring for them, they become about as useless as a cow in a hotel lobby. The Ardmore zoo and other zoos throughout the country are continually swapping, selling, giving or being given animals. This situation is beneficial to all concerned and has swelled the population of the Jaycee Zoo.

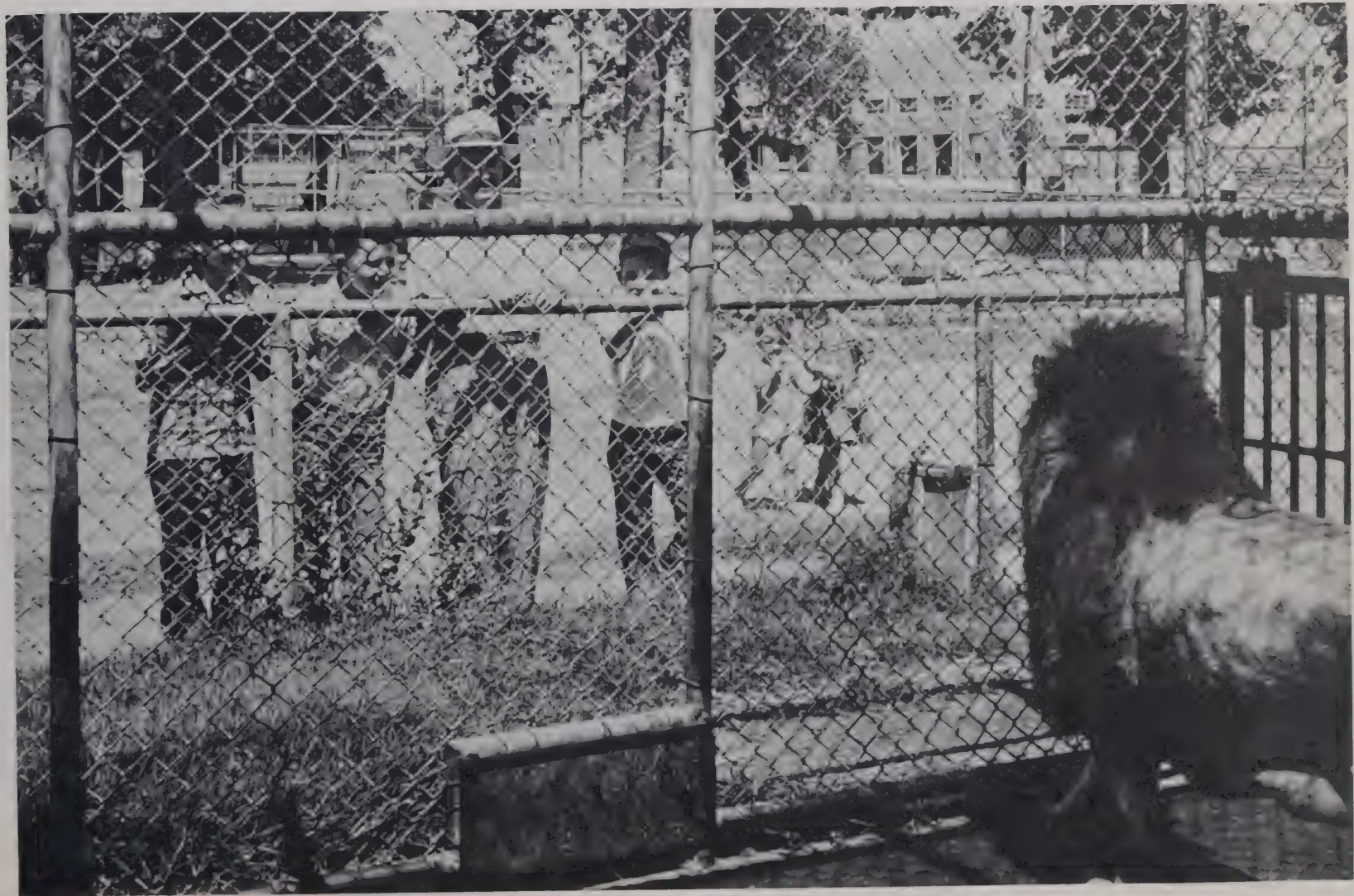
There was the time a circus went broke at Hugo and had on hand two African lions, about the most useless and expensive things in the world for a bankrupt circus but just what the local zoo needed.

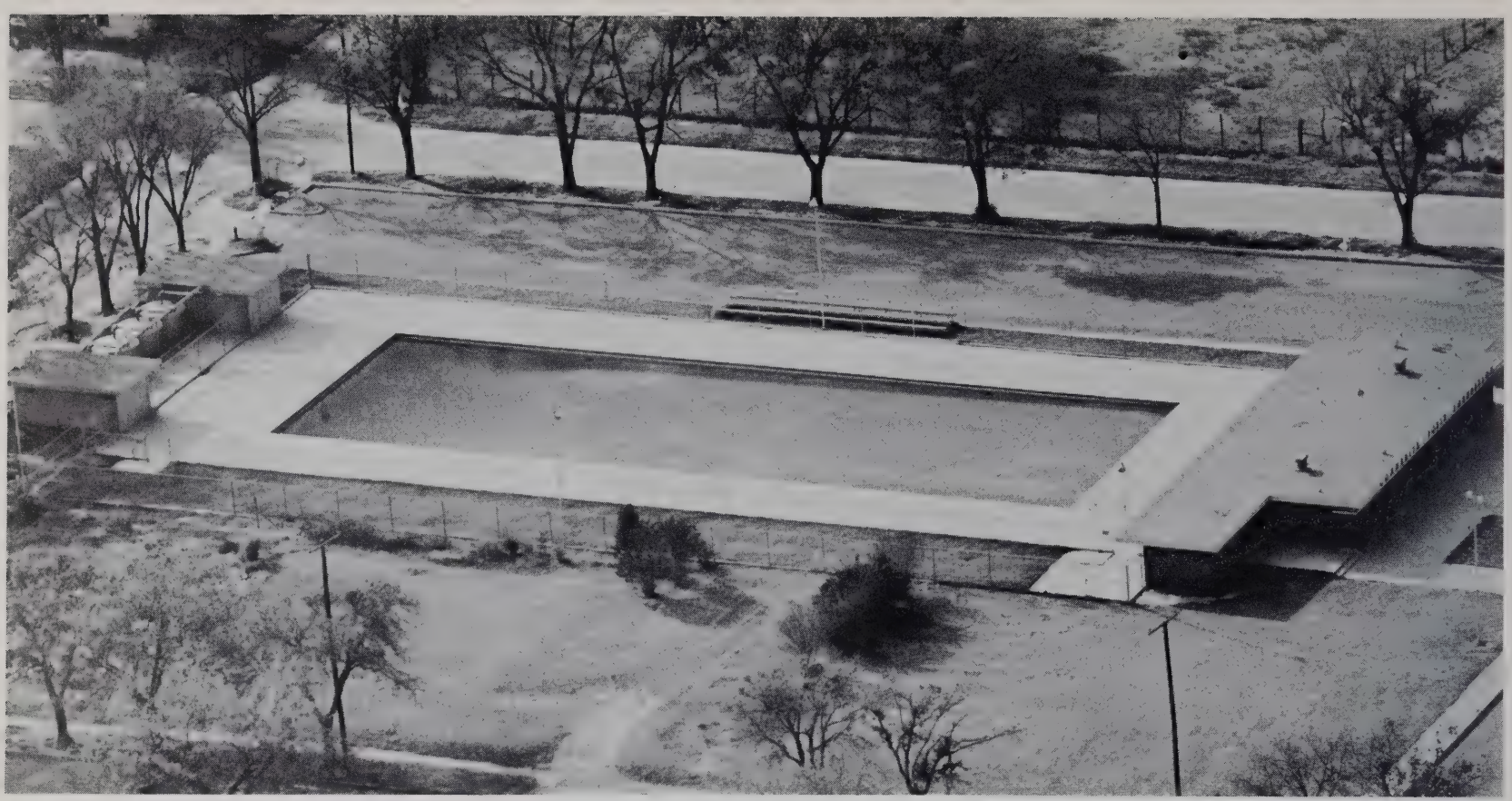
The Ardmore Lions picked up the African lions for a song and donated them to the Jaycee zoo.

But there was not yet a lion cage at the zoo and so . . . No! Buddy Miller was not called on this time. The cats visited the Gainesville zoo until their double, \$1,200 quarters were completed.

All southern Oklahoma enjoys the pleasant relaxation of trips to the Jaycee zoo at Ardmore.







CIVIC PRIDE MAKES A SWIMMING POOL

For many years the city of Ardmore owned and operated a large swimming pool in Whittington Park which was built before modern sanitation facilities were available. The pool had been leased out to private operators but, in 1948, failed to open because of inability to finance repairs.

The following year the Kiwanis Club of Ardmore proposed they operate the pool and the city granted the club a lease. Under a committee composed of Wilson Wallace, Joe W. Shinn and M. A. Rockets the pool operated for a full season at low admission prices with instruction given free by the Red Cross. The Kiwanis members cleaned and painted the pool, using their own funds. The pool was operated by the club from 1949 through 1954.

The club committee realized that a new modern pool was needed and in the winter of 1953 Wallace and Shinn, assured of some financial help if a workable program and proper plans and specifications could be prepared, went to work without any publicity.

Wallace contacted various pool authorities including John A. Corrick of Dallas. Gradually, general plans as to size, equipment and other details were worked out. Harold Flood, architect, was contacted. Flood and Collins went to work preparing detailed plans and specifications.

It was necessary that a vehicle for financing and operation of the pool be established. The men again turned to the Kiwanis Club and they proposed that the club sponsor a foundation to be organized under the laws of Oklahoma as a religious, educational and charitable foundation on a tax exempt basis for the construction and operation of all types of community recreational educational facilities. The Kiwanis Club

quickly adopted the idea and by March of 1953 the Community Youth Foundation of Ardmore was duly incorporated and a charter issued by the Secretary of State.

A site was necessary. Many available locations were studied by the committee, architect and engineer. Finally, an entire block of land east of the high and junior high schools was chosen. The entire block with the large old Daube homestead, a community landmark, was donated to the foundation by Carol Daube Sutton and Leon and Olive Daube.

A drive for \$100,000 was started and immediately several large amounts were given in response to the appeal.

The board of trustees of the foundation was composed of Wallace, W. C. Wright, Shinn, Lester Dennis, Tom Cardwell, Ward Merrick, Ernest Risesen, James E. Thompson, Vernon Moyers and M. A. Rockets. With 60 per cent of the estimated cost in cash and another 24 per cent pledged, they decided to go ahead.

In October, 1954, final plans and specifications were approved and a contract negotiated with the Burton-Miller Construction Company of Ardmore for construction, excluding all deck and bath house equipment that was not a part of the building. Orders were placed with Corrick for all deck, sanitation, cleaning, filters and underwater lighting equipment and accessories. Construction proceeded and by the middle of May, 1955, the pool was ready for acceptance. It was opened to the public May 28, 1955.

In addition to the swimming pool, the Community Youth Foundation was instrumental in construction of the Ardmore Baseball Park at the end of East Main St., which has been used by the Ardmore Baseball Club

for professional baseball and by the American Legion for the junior baseball program, as well as three diamonds for the use of the YMCA in the development of a baseball league for small boys.

The foundation owns 60 acres of land on the east edge of Ardmore, a portion of which is occupied by the abovementioned baseball diamond and the parking lot. The balance of the tract is for future development for recreational uses for the people of southern Oklahoma.

It has been traditional with the foundation since its inception to work out its plans quietly and without fanfare and to announce the construction of new proj-

ects only when those projects are ready for construction and to pay for everything at the time it is done, so that the foundation has no outstanding indebtedness.

A wading pool was constructed adjacent to the large swimming pool.

In addition to the above, the Community Youth Foundation constructed a modern swimming pool and bathhouse equipped with the very finest type of equipment available, next to the Community Center on East Main St. for the use of Negro citizens.

This pool was operated during the year of 1956 under the direction of the foundation, although it was deeded as an outright gift to the city of Ardmore by the foundation.





FIRST NATIONAL BANK

NO AGE OF BARTER

No age of barter, this mid-20th century. A dozen eggs and a sack of turnips will no longer be accepted as payment for a yard of gingham. Nor will good intentions alone maintain a credit rating. This is the age of money.

It is also the age of the highest material standard of living in the history of the world.

Yes, this is the age of money—not so much the hard, round kind nor even the greenbacks—for a large part of today's transactions use mainly the bank check or the future pay plan of banks, building and loan associations and many types of finance, insurance and investment companies.

Without these, scarce would be the fine new homes, automobiles, television sets, college educations and assurance of a financially secure future.

Ardmore is well supplied with financial organizations. Here is a brief chronological history prepared by Ed Sandlin of the First National Bank which traces banking in the county seat:

First Bank:

The first bank to open for business in Ardmore, Indian Territory, was a private institution known as the "J. F. Anderson and Son Bank." It was organized by

J. F. Anderson of Denton, Texas, and his son, Charles L. Anderson. This bank began business in 1889 with a capital of \$10,000. It continued in operation until Aug. 13, 1890, at which time a National Charter was secured with a capital stock of \$60,000. C. C. Hemming of Gainesville, Texas, was the first president and C. L. Anderson was cashier. Later L. P. Anderson succeeded C. C. Hemming as president, and C. L. Anderson was cashier and C. L. Hemming was assistant cashier.

The bank continued under this management until 1910 when it consolidated with the City National Bank. After the consolidation Don Lacy was president; C. L. Anderson, cashier; Ed Sandlin, assistant cashier. During 1917, the First National Bank and the Ardmore National Bank consolidated with Don Lacy, president; G. W. Stuart and P. D. Maxwell, vice presidents, and Ed Sandlin, cashier. This bank continued under the same management from 1917 to 1923.

In December 1923, the bank reorganized with Leon G. Voorhees as president, E. A. Walker and J. H. Snodgrass as vice presidents, and H. T. Vernon as cashier. The bank continued under this management until March 1933, at which time the bank was again reorganized



with E. A. Walker as president, J. H. Snodgrass as executive vice president, and Ed Sandlin as cashier. There were no changes in the official personnel until December 1945, when Ed Sandlin was elected vice president and Robert Batis as cashier.

This bank continued with this official family until June 1946, at which time Loyd W. Judd purchased the E. A. Walker interest in the bank and became president, with J. H. Snodgrass, executive vice president; Ed Sandlin, vice president; Robert Batis, cashier, and Louie Bastin and Leonard Jones, assistant cashiers.

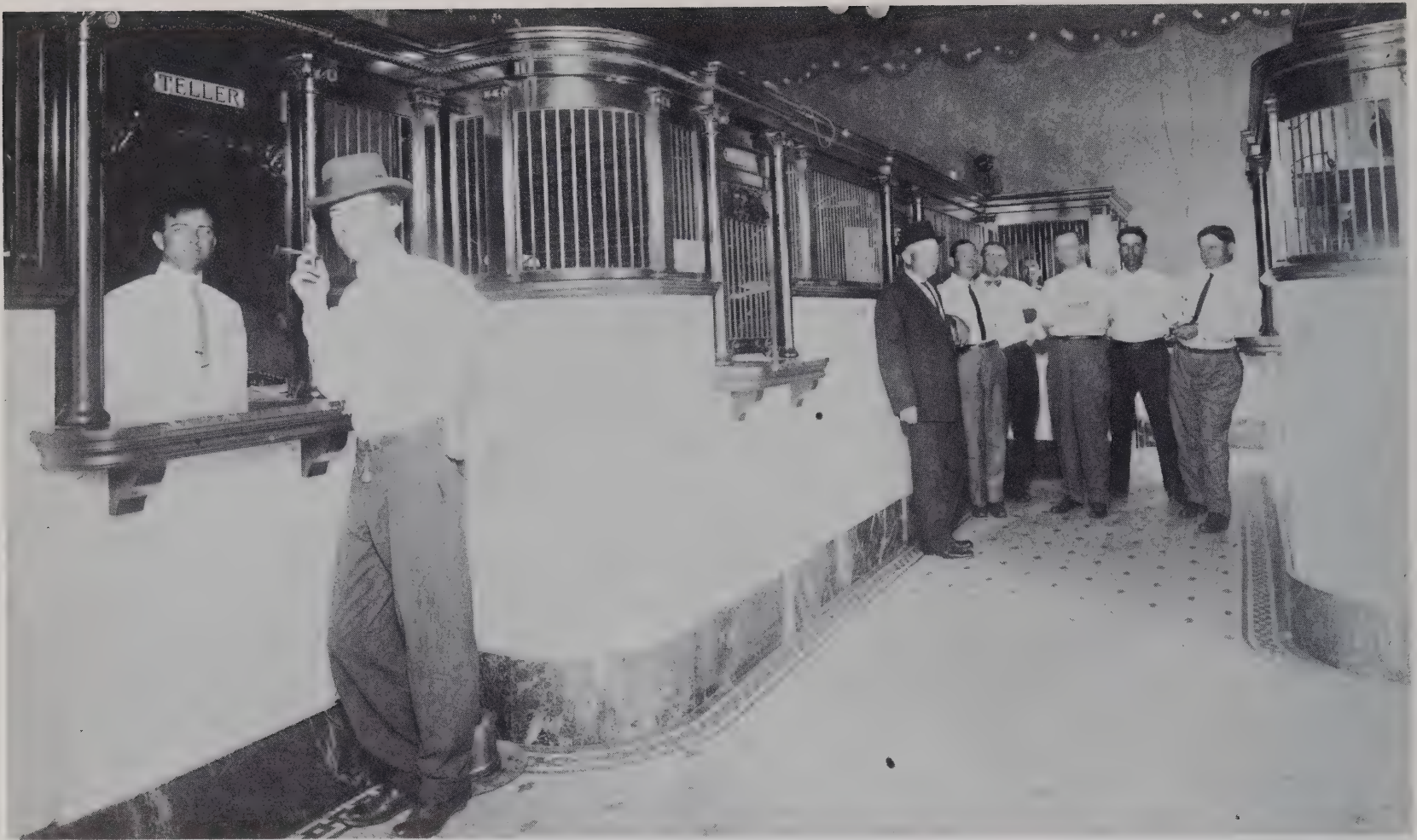
After the death of Loyd W. Judd in May 1949, J. H. Snodgrass was elected president; Ed Sandlin and I. C. Dennis, vice presidents; Robert Batis, cashier, and Louie

Bastin, Leonard G. Jones, John Judd, John M. Hendricks, and William A. West, assistant cashiers.

The First National Bank has been located in four buildings since organization—in the L. N. Glenn furniture store on East Main near Santa Fe Station, in the two-story brick on the north side of main now occupied by Pepsi-Cola Company, on the corner of Main and Washington, in the building now occupied by the Steele Drug Company, and in 1918, constructed the present building located at Main and A, N.W.

Second Bank:

The City National Bank was organized in 1892 by Dr. A. J. Wolverton, H. F. Potts, H. C. Potterf, William G. W. Vernor and J. A. Bivens. Dr. A. J. Wolverton was



FIRST NATIONAL IN 1911

president and H. F. Potts was cashier. The capital stock was \$50,000. At a later date A. H. Palmer and J. A. Bivens were vice presidents, and Don Lacy and George Edwards were cashiers. After the death of Dr. A. J. Wolverton in 1901, J. A. Bivens was elected president and served until consolidation with the First National Bank in 1910.

Third Bank:

The Ardmore National Bank was organized on July 29, 1901, with a capital stock of \$100,000. C. R. Smith was the first president; Lee Cruce, cashier, and G. W. Stuart, assistant cashier. Later Lee Cruce became president; P. D. Maxwell, vice president; G. W. Stuart, cashier, and T. H. Sturgeon and H. D. McCollum, assistant cashiers. This bank consolidated with the First National Bank in 1917.

Fourth Bank:

The Ardmore State Bank was organized by C. T. Barringer as president and Harold Wallace as cashier in 1908. Later, this bank was granted a National Charter and named the State National Bank. Still later, officers were Fred C. Carr, Harold Wallace, J. W. Richardson, Byron Drew and W. W. Jeter. This bank closed in 1922.

Fifth Bank:

The First State Bank was organized in 1907 by Byron Drew and Fred Jones. They purchased the assets of the Ardmore Loan and Trust Company from J. B. Boone. Byron Drew was president and Fred Jones was cashier. After two or three years this bank was consolidated with the State National Bank.

Sixth Bank:

The Bankers National Bank was organized in 1906 by C. W. Baumbach as president and P. C. Dings as

cashier. In about one year a state charter was secured as the Guaranty State Bank, and C. W. Baumbach retired and P. C. Dings became president; N. B. Feagan, vice president, and J. M. Jones, cashier. Later, J. W. Hannah and E. V. Green were cashiers. In 1919 the Guaranty State Bank was changed to the American National Bank, having secured a national charter. The officers were P. C. Dings, president; F. H. Sherwood, J. B. Alexander and N. B. Feagan, vice presidents, and C. S. Pyle, cashier. They continued as American National Bank until 1929 when a state charter was obtained as the American Bank and Trust Company. After the retirement of P. C. Dings, Mike Gorman became president; O. W. DeVeney, cashier, and Robert Batis, vice president and later cashier. The bank closed in 1933.

Seventh Bank:

The Exchange National Bank was organized in 1917 by Fred C. Carr, Cecil Williams and Lee L. Tyler with a capital stock of \$100,000. Fred C. Carr was president; Cecil B. Williams, vice president, and Lee L. Tyler, cashier. Later, T. H. Hefley succeeded Lee L. Tyler as cashier and still later, Ashley Hodges was cashier and Lester Dennis was executive vice president. In 1952 Felix Simmons purchased the Fred Carr stock and became president, with Lester Dennis, executive vice president; Ashley Hodges, cashier, and later, Ford Simmons, vice president and cashier.

Eighth Bank:

The City State Bank was organized in 1917 by A. H. Palmer as president, O. H. Wolverton as cashier, and B. S. Frost as assistant cashier with a capital stock of \$50,000. This bank consolidated with the American Bank and Trust Company in 1932.



BANKERS NATIONAL BANK



FIRST NATIONAL IN 1903



MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

MEDICAL SERVICES

Ardmore is fast becoming a medical center, with its facilities headed so far as size is concerned by a beautiful \$1,500,000 hospital named in memory of the pioneers who lived in a world of kitchen table operations performed under the light of a kerosene lamp.

The first regular hospital came to Ardmore in 1901 when Drs. Walter Hardy, Frederick P. Von Keller and Robert H. Henry equipped the second floor of the Ramsey Drug Store at Main and Caddo with 10 hospital beds, an x-ray machine and a small laboratory. Today, a physician can sometimes spend all his working hours in a hospital, but such was not the case then. There were still lots of house calls that had to be made regardless of the weather or the hour or the feelings of the practitioner. The Ardmore Sanitarium, as the above hospital was called, functioned until 1911.

The relatively adequate facilities of the Hardy Sanitarium, which had been started in 1911, were especially valuable during the 1915 disaster at Ardmore. Every doctor, every nurse and every volunteer was pressed into service.

Dr. Walter Hardy and World War pilots Arthur Oakley and Dorsey Askew did a very unusual thing back

in 1916 by establishing an airplane ambulance service. This was credited with the saving of many lives; it gave the doctor more time to practice medicine and less trying, frustrating hours on the surface roads wondering if he could make it in time.

He would sometimes make as many as six trips a day to as many towns or oil field areas in the air ambulance.

The versatile Dr. Hardy also pioneered in radio, having receiving sets installed in the hospital as early as 1922. He later established Ardmore's first radio broadcasting station, WOOA, which he installed atop the sanitarium and placed at the service of the community.

He was the first doctor with a medical diploma to practice at Ardmore and was equally at home on a horse as he was in the air. For years he was a familiar part of the Ardmore birthday parade, riding a fine horse or driving his buggy. One of Dr. Hardy's partners was Dr. Jerome C. McNeese and another early-day associate was Dr. H. A. Higgins.

A hospital was operated for many years by Dr. Von Keller. Still in use, it is now called the Ardmore Sanitarium and Hospital.



MEDICAL ARTS CLINIC

In addition to this hospital and Memorial Hospital, Ardmore has a new osteopathic hospital. All three stay full as patients come from far and near to avail themselves of the experience and skill of the fine men and women who staff them.

Besides the three main hospitals, many clinics have been set up in recent years.

The 1956 Ardmore telephone directory lists over 20

physicians. The Carter County Medical Society maintains an emergency exchange which knows the whereabouts of each doctor at all times. This is especially useful after office hours or on holidays.

In addition to these, there are nine dentists and four veterinarians.

There are four chiropractors, one chiropodist (foot specialist), four osteopaths, four optometrists and one naturopath.



MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CLINIC



OSTEOPATHIC HOSPITAL

A COUNTRY DOCTOR

Nowadays when a man becomes a doctor it may be reasonably assumed that he will spend most of his available time and energy in the actual practice of medicine. But the old country doctor's time spent in actually treating the ailing was cut down by many things.

Perhaps the greatest hindrance was the weather, coupled with slow vehicles and no roads or bad roads.

Dr. H. A. Higgins, who practiced medicine in the Ardmore area for over half a century, once wrote down some of his early experiences. They are amusing—in retrospect—and are typical of the conditions under which other doctors of that time worked.

The doctor described his first ten years of practice as a nightmare. "There were no roads except cow trails through the brush—brush that would scratch one's eyes out at night if he did not keep his head down while riding his horse. There were no bridges over the rivers and creeks and no telephones."

Dr. Higgins, who could not swim himself, would often hang on while his horse swam rivers and creeks, even when they were bank-full.

Once a man drowned while trying to swim his horse across a creek to pick up Dr. Higgins. There was no more swimming his horse across a creek for the doctor after that. He would ride to the bank and crawl to the other side on a tree which had been cut down to span the stream. On the other side there would be a horse waiting for him.

The doctor would often find that his patient was in

bad shape due to lack of previous treatment. There would be no sanitation, no help, no physical facilities except those contained in the little medical bag.

The usual charge for a maternity call was \$10, even if the doctor had to crawl out of bed and ride or drive five or ten miles in rain, snow or sleet. Sometimes he did not receive his pay, usually because the patient did not have it. Perhaps the bill would be paid in produce, or years later, in money. Nobody had much money, but cash went a long way.

Many doctors had a hard time preparing themselves for the arduous but spiritually rewarding practice of medicine. Dr. Higgins came all the way from Cheltenham in Gloucestershire, England, where he was born in 1874. England was too "tame" for him. He was about 18 at the time he made the voyage, which was longer than anticipated because the ship had to detour by Martinique to pick up some shipwreck survivors.

He landed in New Orleans with 50 cents in his pocket and a deep regret that he had told his mother, who had opposed his American venture, that he most certainly would not be asking for money to come home on—that he "would die before he so humbled himself." To top it off, he had his first experience with mosquitoes.

He found some sort of work on a farm and eventually met a man near San Antonio who was going to the Indian Territory by wagon and offered to let the young man come along if he would help herd a few cows en route.

He soon found himself following a plow on the A-Bar



VETERANS—Here are three doctors who served Ardmore and Carter County more than 50 years. Left to right are Dr. J. Hobson Veazey, Dr. H. A. Higgins and Dr. Wallie Hardy.

Prairie with an anatomy book propped between the handles. He studied every spare moment he could find and taught in the Brown and Beaver subscription schools for a time to accumulate capital for medical school tuition.

He wrote home regularly, but never a word about having a hard time and never a plea for money until his second year in medical school when he asked for and received \$500.

Dr. Higgins' formal medical training had to be sandwiched in between intervals of working, and was taken during a period of transition in the requirements for obtaining a license. He found himself thinking he was near graduation several times only to learn that another year's training would be required.

DR. J. H. SMITH

When J. H. Smith became Dr. Smith upon his graduation from Dallas Medical College in 1906, he doubtless could have built a more lucrative practice with much less wear on himself had he elected to remain in Dallas or go to an even larger city. He had married Clarinda Driggers in 1896, and many women would have chosen the relatively easy life of a larger city. But, both the doctor and his bride were from rural areas—she from Blue Ridge, Texas; Dr. Smith had been born at Cummings, Ga., in 1878 and had moved to Comanche, I. T., in 1901. It was lucky for many of his subsequent patients that they chose the small village of old Healdton and the surrounding area.

With the coming of oil, Dr. Smith opened a drug

store and office at Wirt (Ragtown) in 1914. Dr. P. R. Davis became his associate in 1915.

Although doctors were scarce and in constant demand, Dr. Smith found many other calls on his knowledge, energy and good nature. He was generally known as the unofficial mayor of Ragtown, a sort of father-confessor healing the ailing, arbitrating differences between the oil field workers and aiding the needy.

He moved his offices and drug store to the new Healdton in 1919 and died there in 1923.

It was perhaps financially fortunate that Dr. Smith established Tuscania Oil Company in 1917, for his old records show over 1,200 unpaid loans made by him at Wirt from September, 1914, to October, 1919. They range in amount from \$1 to \$140. The books also show over 1,600 unpaid medical bills from 1907 to 1923.

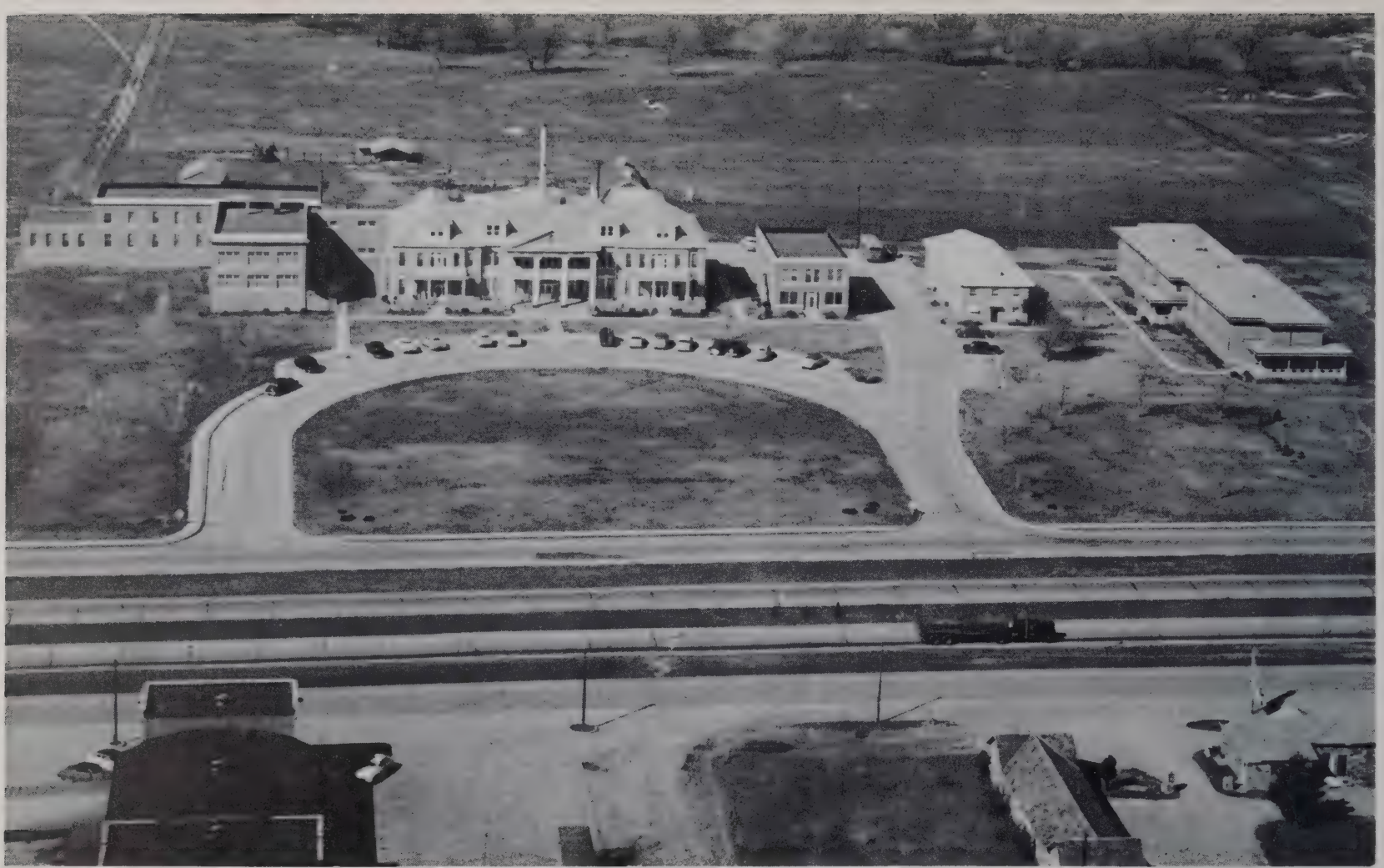
But, like other hard-working doctors of those times, this man was sincerely interested in bettering his community by active personal service exclusive of his medical practice.

As a member of the Healdton town council, he helped make plans for incorporating that city. He was also active in the Church of Christ and found time for participation in the programs of the Masonic Lodge, Woodmen of the World and Improved Order of Redmen.

Tuscania Oil Company is now owned by one of the Smith daughters, Mrs. M. P. Stewart of Wichita Falls.



DR. J. H. SMITH



OKLAHOMA VETERANS HOME



ON A CALL—Dr. W. A. Darling started practice of medicine in 1895 at McMillan, I. T., and moved to Hewitt in 1896. When the town of Wilson

was started in 1913 he built his home there and moved his drug store from Hewitt. He also built the first telephone system in Wilson.



NOBLE HEADQUARTERS FARM

THE NOBLE FOUNDATION

Ardmore and Carter County are the home of one of the greatest contributions ever made by a successful man to his home country. That contribution is the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc., and its work is designed to help not only Carter County and Oklahoma but the whole world.

The foundation was established in 1945 by Lloyd Noble, an Ardmore man who became one of the nation's greats in the oil industry. It was named in memory of the founder's father, one of Carter County's pioneers.

In accordance with Lloyd Noble's purpose to use his wealth for the continuing benefit of southern Oklahoma and of humanity everywhere, the foundation is carrying

on vital scientific research in two fields, medical and agricultural.

The current project of the Laboratory Research Division, headed by Dr. Thomas A. McCoy, is conducting basic research in the causes of cancer and other degenerative diseases. Research teams have at their disposal a library which is kept as complete as possible and a dispensary and stockroom in which are stored over 300,000 chemical reagents and equipment running from surgical suture to animal cages and complicated distillation units.

The very latest and best equipment is available to the researchers—if it is not on hand perhaps it can be manufactured in the wood-working, metal fabricating,



LLOYD NOBLE

electronics and glass-blowing shop. This installation not only maintains and repairs delicate scientific instruments, but can make new ones which are not commercially available.

Dr. Horace J. Harper heads up the agricultural division, which is currently conducting research aimed at helping to solve many problems of soil management and livestock production. The foundation owns three large experimental farms with a greenhouse at the headquarters farm where thousands of plants undergo experimental breeding and selecting each year.

Results of agricultural research work at the Noble Foundation are distributed to farm and ranch operators



JAMES E. THOMPSON

in cooperation with agricultural agencies operating in this area.

Lloyd Noble died in 1950, leaving the bulk of his estate, including his Samedan Oil Corporation and the Noble Drilling Corporation, to the foundation. Profits of these firms go to support the work of the non-profit foundation.

Headquarters are two miles east of Ardmore on Highway 70. The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation is governed by a board of trustees headed by James E. Thompson as president and including Lloyd Noble's three children, Sam, Ed and Ann, and officials and former associates of the supporting firms.



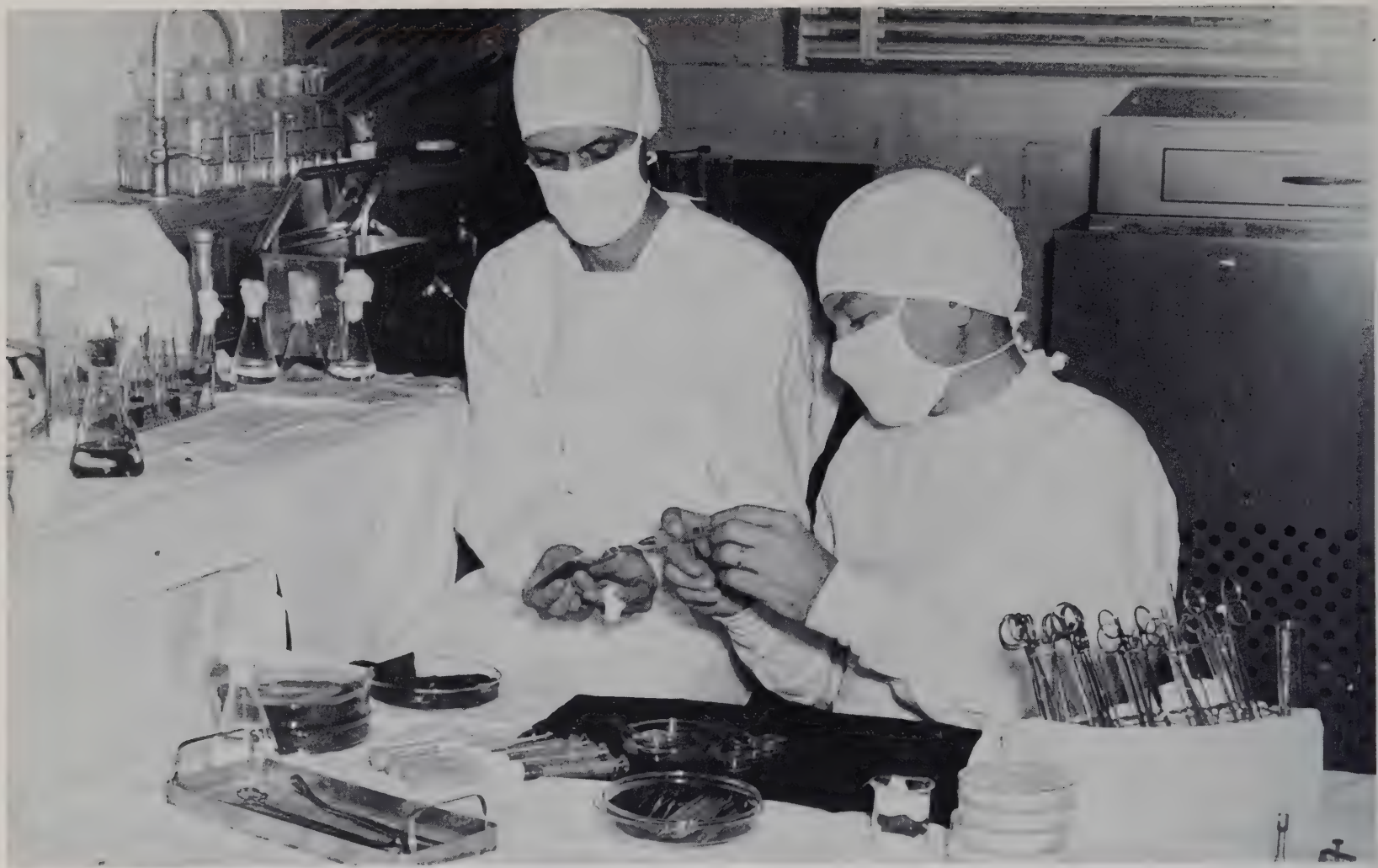
MAIN BUILDING EAST OF ARDMORE



FIELD STUDY OF SMALL GRAIN IN TEST PLOTS



LIVESTOCK FIELD DAY ON EXPERIMENTAL FARM



M. K. PATTERSON, LEFT, AND DR. THOMAS A. McCOY DOING CANCER RESEARCH



4-H AND FFA MEMBERS DURING ANNUAL SOIL JUDGING CONTESTS







LAKE MURRAY LODGE

RECREATION RIGHT AT HOME

South of the Arbuckle Mountains in an area that once was a part of the Chickasaw Indian Nation lies Lake Murray State Park. This 21,000-acre highly-developed playground, situated about midway between Ardmore and Marietta, in Carter and Love Counties, has gained recognition throughout the Southwest as a choice spot for those who enjoy the richness of relaxation.

Facilities of all types are available. There is a magnificent air-conditioned lodge on the shore of a beautiful clear water lake for those who prefer to rough it in luxury. In it is a spacious dining room where excellent food is served. Surrounding the lodge are modernistic cabins, also air-conditioned, for those who prefer them. Some are housekeeping cabins so that persons may prepare their own meals. In select loca-

tions around the timbered shoreline are picnic areas and camp grounds for those who enjoy the quiet seclusion of the outdoors.

Horseback riding and hiking are popular. Organized youth camps dot the area. A sandy beach beckons swimmers and sunbathers alike and the little tots have fun in a shallow, safe area of the lake.

The boat dock sector is well equipped to serve fishing needs.

Water sports—skiing, speedboat races and sail boating—have gained national attention at Lake Murray. And at the lodge, the management maintains a full-time recreational director to provide varied entertainment for guests.



RELAXING UNDER THE TREES AT LAKE MURRAY



RUGGED SHORELINE PROVIDES A BEAUTIFUL SETTING FOR GUESTS



BOAT DOCKS



LOOKING EAST FROM THE LODGE



BEAUTIFUL CABINS PROVIDE LUXURY LIVING





Wilson



DOWNTOWN WILSON

The coming of the railroad between Ardmore and Ringling was to cause the old settlement of Hewitt to become a ghost town and another town to be built about one mile to the southwest on the railroad.

In 1912 Jake Hamon bought eight acres of land at the site of the present Wilson and began selling lots. They went briskly and the new town was named Wilson after the secretary of circus magnate John Ringling, who was associated with Hamon in construction of the railroad. There was soon a population of 2,000 and it is said that by 1915 there were between 3,000 and 4,000.

The town was incorporated in 1912 with the following officials: R. H. Reed, S. T. Brimer, W. H. Henson and B. E. Mobley. A post office was established in 1914 with L. L. Dunlap as the first postmaster.

City officials in 1924 were J. C. Bryant, mayor; H. T. Brown, city clerk; T. L. Harper, treasurer, and N. E. Ticer, city attorney. City councilmen were J. G. Skidmore, O. L. Bounds, E. J. Buchele and E. W. Davis. T. A. Griffin was chief of police, Jim Elton was night chief and F. P. Diffie was superintendent of Wilson schools.

Arleigh Davis was president of the Wilson chamber of commerce and Fleet Cooper was its secretary. In 1924 the chamber published a rather ambitious brochure from which the following is quoted:

"Population 5,000 with an immediate trade area of 20,000 . . . the natural center of the Greater Wilson Oil Fields, which comprise the Hewitt, Healdton, Fox and Graham Oil Fields . . .

"Has two cotton gins, three oil refineries, wholesale houses, six lumber yards, 48 retail stores, garages . . . up-to-date schools, modern electric light plant, water and sewerage system." The booklet went on to extol all the virtues of Wilson.

L. B. Mason's Free Coffee Cafe advertised that it never closed and that regular meals could be had for 30 cents. Several cafes were advertised, as were other businesses running the gamut from the Empress and Dreamland Theatres to Collier Brothers Hardware, Furniture and Undertaking. One business that must have been especially well appreciated with the Wilson Ice Company factory. C. P. Hall, still a leading furniture and hardware firm, had stores at Wilson, Healdton, Graham and Ardmore. Wilson had a steam laundry in 1924 owned by Ben Loughridge.

Dr. L. B. Sutherland was in charge of the Wilson Hospital, which had modern laboratories and x-ray facilities. Other physicians included W. A. Darling, C. A. and R. W. Johnson, W. H. Campbell, T. W. Dowdy, and McComb and Woods. Dentists included J. W. Jones and G. P. Russell.

Publisher H. W. Hoffman's Wilson Daily Democrat was approaching its second year in 1924.

Wilson has never become a metropolis, but the trend is now toward suburban living anyway. And Wilson is close to Ardmore and other cities where perhaps "brighter lights" may be seen. It is served by the finest of highways. Lake Murray, Turner Falls and Lake Texoma are among the recreational areas that are easily reached.

But Wilson has plenty of stores and services for those who don't want to go elsewhere. It is a town of contrasts—a blending of the old with the new to produce a fine place in which to live.

R. G. Hall and his son Kenneth of the C. P. Hall store may sell an air conditioner one minute and have calls for harness or "eye hoes" the next. The 10-man volunteer fire department is composed of men who all work on Main Street. Earl Brimer is chief and Kenneth Hall is assistant chief.



MONUMENT UNVEILING—This scene was shot during the unveiling of the Frenseley Monument at the Hewitt Cemetery in 1905. Prominent in

the photo are Will Ward, Aaron Ward, Tom Sharrock, Clay Russell, Noah Rounds, Dr. W. A. Darling, Walter Burns and Mrs. Mollie Rounds.



FIRST STORE IN WILSON—A group of Wilson residents line up in front of the J. S. White store in 1914. Left to right are B. A. McClendon, Bill

Troop, Frank Jarnigon, Jim White, Side White, L. O. Addy and Gus Hamilton. The store offered what might be called one-stop service.



PEACE OF MIND—After farming all their lives Mr. and Mrs. James Barnett have moved to the main street of Wilson. They occupy a neat little white house next to a white church and can just sit and watch the cars whiz by on the highway most of the time if they feel so inclined. The habit of working from dawn to dusk has left their lives, but the storm cellar has not. Mr. Wilson built this one right next to his front door where it will

be handy. The large cellar is dug six feet into the ground and the heavy door is counterbalanced by 50 pound weights. The Barnetts did their horse and buggy courting near Duncan in the 1890's. "Life is 'easier now,'" she admits. "But it was a good life on the farm. All that hard work kept folks out of mischief." The Barnetts moved to Post Oak, five miles south of Wilson, in 1931.



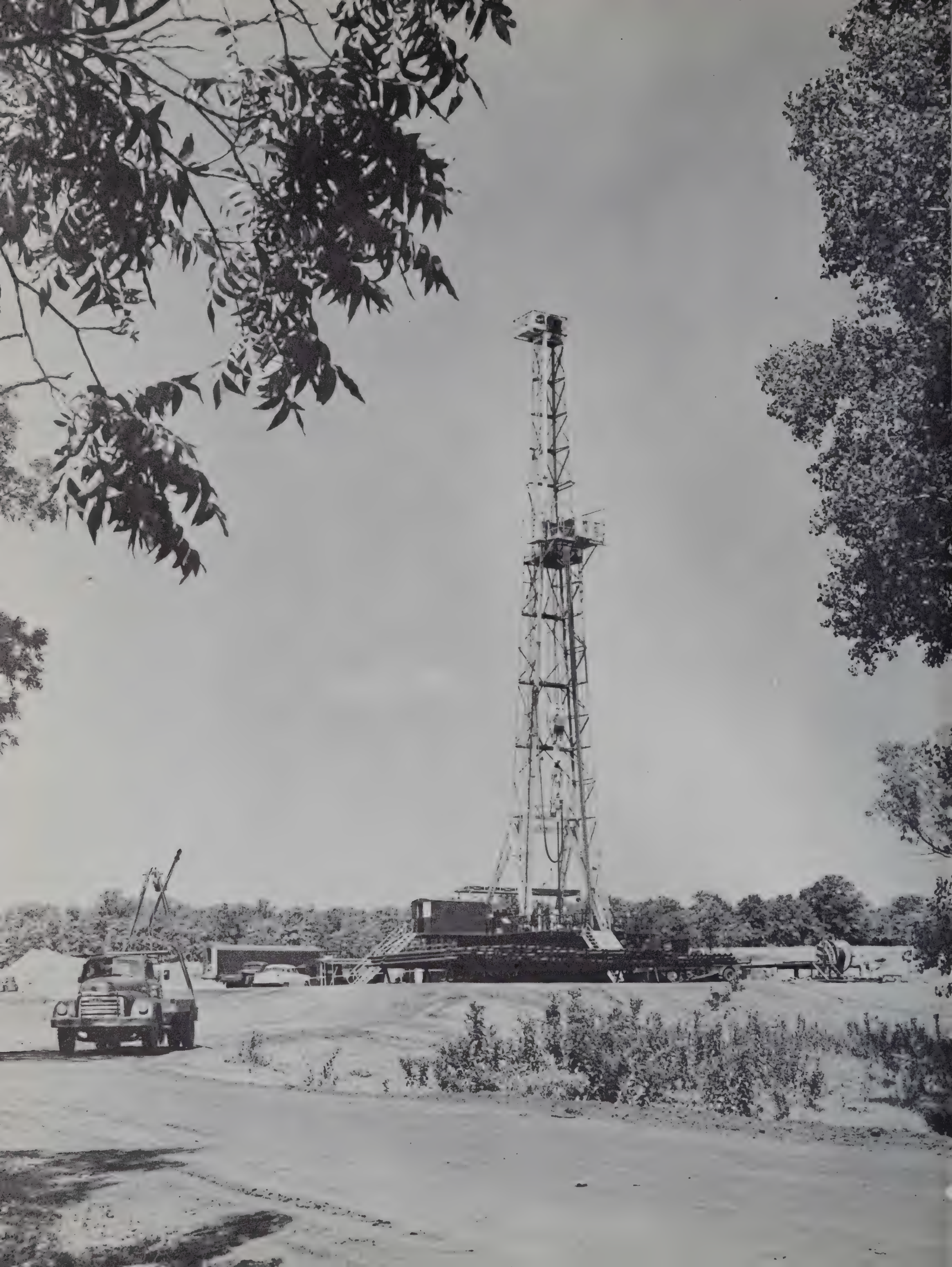
ONE OF THE FIRST BARBER SHOPS IN WILSON



BUSINESS HOUSES IN WILSON



REDMOND SHOE SHOP IN 1920





Healdton



Elisha S. Mason established a post office in 1883 one-half mile east of the present site of Healdton. The community, called Mason after its founder, sported a few houses, a general store and a wagon yard. Charles H. Heald became postmaster in 1897 and the settlement's name was changed to Healdton. Heald was an intermarried citizen of the Chickasaw Nation.

At the start of the oil era, Hammond and Ringling decided to build a railroad from Ardmore to the town of Ringling and approached Heald for permission to cross his land. They were turned down and the road was laid one-half mile west of the settlement.

Ben C. Heald soon succeeded his father as postmaster of Healdton. There was a rumor that Wirt, a little town west of the railroad that was often referred to as Rag Town, was planning to move to the railroad and establish itself as the hub of the activity that the recent discovery of oil had assured.

Ben Heald acted fast. He loaded his post office and his spare shirts on a wagon and relocated at the present townsite.

All the major oil companies and their supporting operators and services soon established offices at Healdton. The populace is still supported directly or indirectly by the petroleum industry.

The oil that was stored in earthen tanks and transported to the railroad at Healdton in wooden barrels loaded on wagons was worth but 30 cents a barrel for a time.



CHARLES HOBERT HEALD



MAIL MUST GO THROUGH—This is Roy Withers, now of Wirt, as he started on his mail run one day from old Healdton, one-half mile east of the present Healdton, before the railroad came through the area. The mail was picked up each day at Ardmore, hauled in covered wagons and various other vehicles, some with as many as four horses pulling them. Mr. Withers was the only one equipped with a car at that time. He's pictured on this

page as he started from Healdton, the distribution point, to deliver his load at Rag Town, old Cornish and Butcher Knife. It must have taken some loading to get everything on the trusty old touring car. He remembers this day well; the round boxes tied on the front contained derby hats. Mr. Withers had just got started when the lashings broke "and some new derbies ended up as flat as pancakes."



OLD HEALDTON OKLA.—All mail once was addressed to this post office as "Old Healdton, Okla." The house to the right belonged to Dr. J. A.

Gordon, first physician to come to the town more than 70 years ago. the post office building also housed the McKnight Drug Store.



VICKREY STREET IN A NEW ADDITION AT HEALDTON

Healdton's growth has been of the solid variety. By 1920 the population had grown to over 2,000 and the 1950 census shows 2,578. Recent estimates place the population between 3,000 and 5,000.

In 1956 a new \$88,000 sewage disposal plant was put in operation and \$40,000 was spent improving the water distribution system. Latest equipment has been purchased for garbage collection and street improvement and the council recently approved an ordinance instituting a city planning and zoning commission.

Sixty-two per cent of the homes in the town are owned by the persons living in them. New additions are rising on the outskirts, with most of the construction being of three-bedroom brick veneer type. It is rare to see a home without a television antenna. Seven stations are received and many programs are enjoyed by wives and children while the father is at work in the oil fields, often being away for a week.

Social snobbery is practically nonexistent. Laborer, foreman, bookkeeper and executive may often be seen enjoying a round of golf together on the fine course which all had a hand in building. Finishing touches are being put on a modern swimming pool.

Churches have a great influence. Of course, they are primarily places of worship, but they join the schools in supporting social life and worthwhile organizations. There are 13 churches representing 10 denominations. Three have constructed new buildings within the last three years and all of them have either rebuilt or com-

pleted extensive remodeling programs since 1950. There were an estimated 2,600 church members in 1955.

The wage scale is greatly over the national average, but healthy competition among the merchants keeps the cost of living from being unusually high. The 1950 census showed only 17 persons classed as unemployed. The trade area is inhabited by about 15,000 persons and retail sales run well over \$700,000 per month.

The backbone of Healdton's economy is still the oil industry. There are 36 major and 70 independent oil producers in the area, and 67 oil field service companies and six supply companies.

But, oil does not steal the whole show. Potts Red River Chili Company has the largest barbecue pit in Oklahoma with a capacity of one ton of meat. Ford's Mello-Soft Bread is made in one of the largest independent bakeries in the Southwest. Ford products are shipped to over 30 points, including Oklahoma City.

Each year during Oil Progress Week, the chamber of commerce sponsors HOAID (Healdton Area Oil Industry Appreciation Day). In 1956 there was a parade 30 blocks long, full of floats, bands and oil equipment. At the free barbecue following the parade, over 3,500 enthusiastic participants and guests were fed.

And speaking of oil, new hydraulic fracturing techniques are rejuvenating some of the wells where production had been falling off and the petroleum industry is expected to continue as king of the Healdton economy for at least another 40 years.



HEALDTON FIRE DEPARTMENT, 1925



THEY STAY READY—Healdton Fire Chief Howard D. Engle stands with some of the town's up-to-date equipment. The chief is the only paid

member of the department, but 14 or more volunteers can be rounded up at a moment's notice.



BANK OF HEALDTON—This bank was organized in 1916 and remains as Healdton's only bank. It has deposits in excess of \$2,225,000. This photo, taken in 1926, shows, left to right, O. A. Pearson, Clyde Henson, O. T. Jennings, Grace Eck Johnson, an unidentified girl and Larry Eakin.

Henson was cashier at the time and is now a bank director. O. T. Jennings was assistant cashier and is currently bank president. Eakin was the bookkeeper and is now owner of Eakin Lumber Company. When the bank was organized it had \$250,000 in assets.

COMMUNITY BACKING BUILDS A GOLF COURSE

The group of men meeting in 1954 liked the town of Healdton, agreed with the statements made by the area's most ardent boosters—but on their occasional afternoon off they all had found themselves walking in circles and mumbling. They were golfers. And Healdton, with more than 15,000 persons living within a 15-mile radius of the busy community, had no golf course.

Somebody remembered how the pioneers once got cemeteries cleaned, churches and barns built—how the women had their quilting bees and such. They decided to adapt to modern times this old custom of everybody pitching in for the common good.

Soon a tract of land south of town was secured and golf architect Floyd Farley was called in to draw up the plans.

Healdton, in the middle of one of Oklahoma's largest oil fields, was well suited to the task ahead. Trucking companies, oil companies and dirt moving firms brought in equipment and volunteer workers came from all directions. Some of these workers had never held a golf club and got a lot of good-natured kidding about "cow

pasture pool" and "little boy executives" who had to have their toys. Many of these scoffers are now golfers with a vengeance, and more of the uninitiated element of the community are joining the sport every week.

The Oilfield Recreation Association, Inc., has a \$90,000 golf course that cost but \$20,000, and a fine \$10,000 clubhouse. No more lost feeling and mumbling on afternoons off.

The club had 120 members who invested \$100 each to get the project rolling. They get their money back at the rate of \$20 per year.

Yearly green fees cost \$100. This is paid by the original backers as well as the late-comers. Non-members pay a daily green fee of \$1 which is raised to \$1.50 on weekends and holidays. The course is maintained in the best traditions of the golf course science.

Everidge Gosney, who served as president of the Oilfield Recreation Association, is credited with much of the push that got the ball rolling and added yet another bragging point to an already fine community.

Strong community backing pays off today just as it did for the pioneers.



MARION PROCTOR'S GROCERY IN 1918



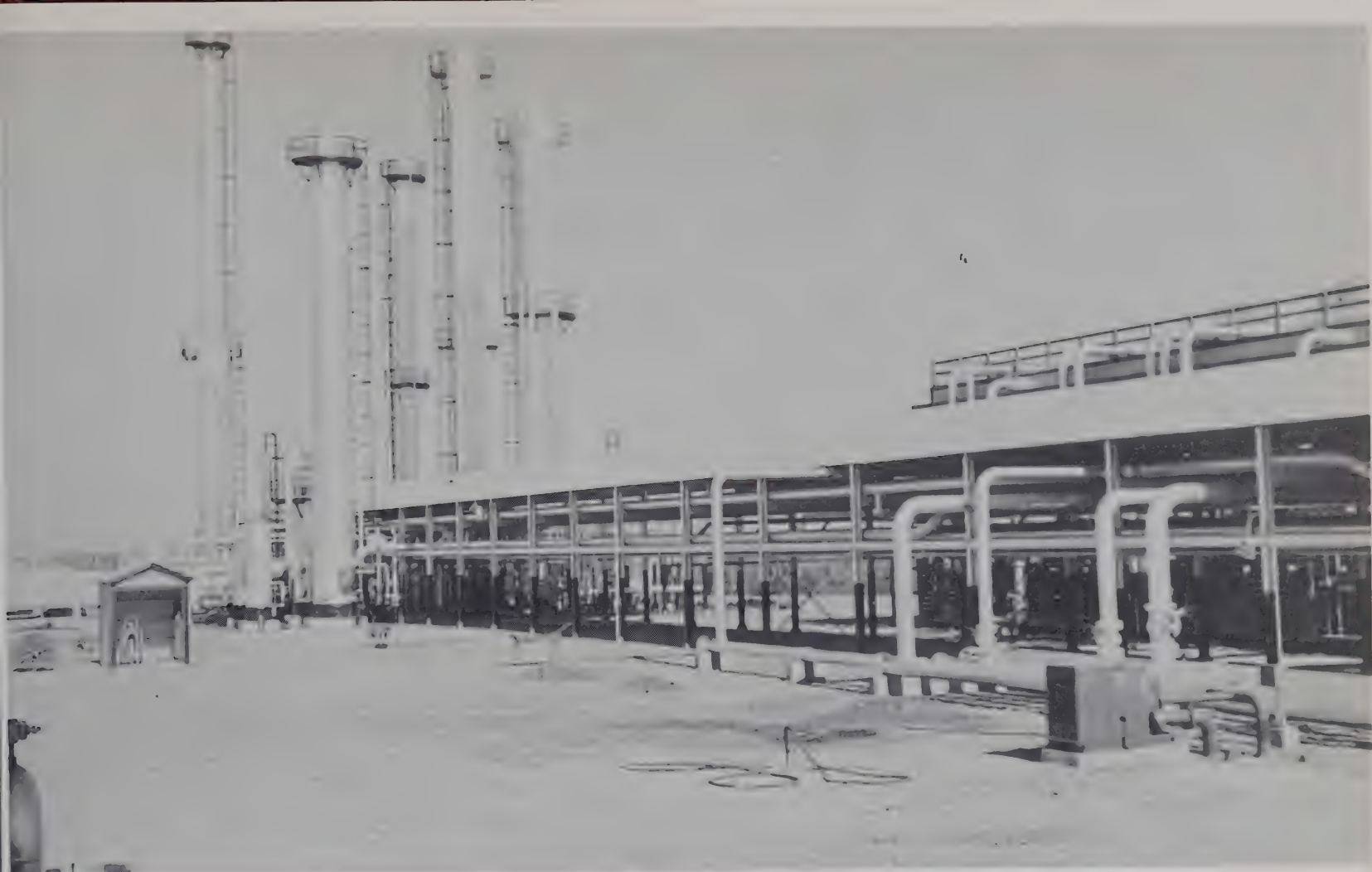
JONES AND EVERITT MACHINE SHOP ABOUT 1920



HEALDTON MAIN STREET IN 1917



THE BOOSTER BAND IN FRONT OF THE THOMPSON THEATRE ABOUT 1923



SIGNAL OIL & GAS COMPANY PLANT NEAR FOX



OIL FIELD FRACTURING SCENE



COMPANY C, 1st REGIMENT NATIONAL GUARD FROM ARDMORE AT FORT RILEY, 1910



CARTER COUNTY HOME GUARDS, OCT. 6, 1918



THE HORSESHOE RESTAURANT, A POPULAR PLACE IN 1905

THE HAMBURGER KING

"Gimme one all the way."

If you had walked into an Ardmore restaurant and said that in the early 1900's there is no telling what you would have gotten. But it would not have been a hamburger, for hamburgers were just one of the now-familiar things that had not appeared on the scene. And they came largely by accident.

Bob Biggs gathered up his small family at Yukon, Okla., in 1900 and headed to Ardmore to seek a job and establish a home.

Some time after his arrival, Biggs struck up a casual conversation with a man who had been on a trip to a large city. One of the wonders he described was a sandwich—made on the spot and served hot, the hamburger was becoming a sensation in some parts of the nation.

Biggs thought he saw an opportunity, although it is always hard to tackle something that is brand new in the hope it will please the somewhat tradition-bound public. Using the imagination of both men and the memory of the traveler, the two sat down and designed a pushcart with serving counter, shelves and grill heated by a gasoline burner.

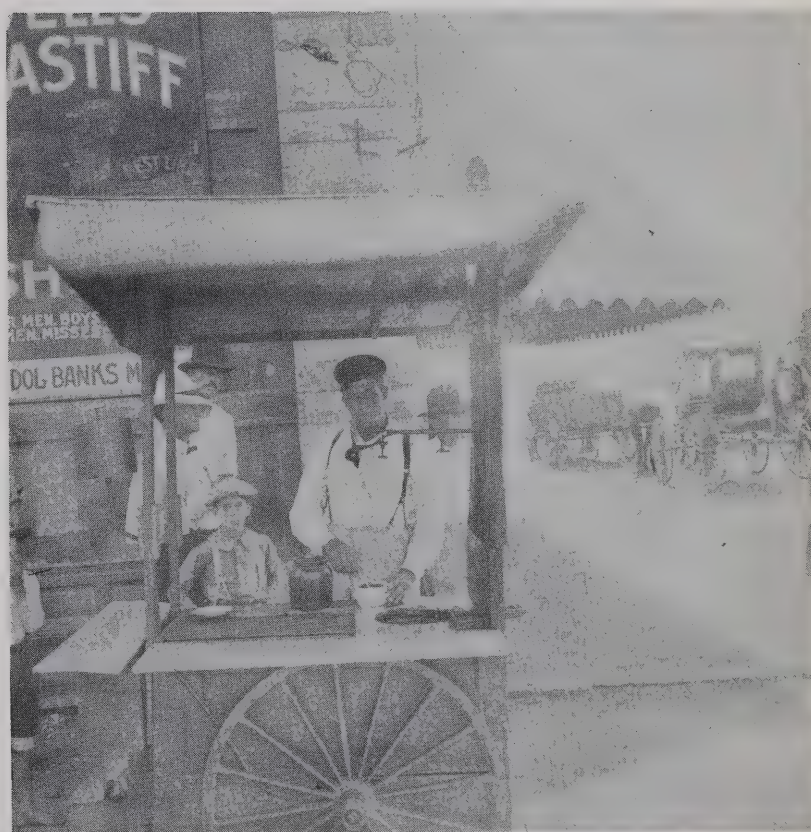
Biggs piled up all the money he had and got all he could from friends and relatives. He was still \$12 short of what he needed to get started.

So he tried Ardmore businessmen for a loan. Most were unimpressed. It is amusing to reflect on what would happen if there was a chance to establish a hamburger business in a town with no hamburgers today for a few dollars. But there is always one who will try new things. A grocer named Carr put up the \$12 and the cart soon started rolling.

Bob set up his pushcart on the corner of Main and Mill most of the time, but one good thing about the business was that it could be moved if business was slack at the home stand.

The year was 1904, Ardmore was young and the citizens took to the tasty meal for a nickel. What better advertisement could there be than the sizzling of the griddle and the distinctive aroma that greeted passersby?

Well, hamburgers are still around, some better than others. There has been many a fortune made on them. They were largely responsible for the advent



HAMBURGERS ON WHEELS

of the drive-in cafe and the small walk-in lunch counter. Other concoctions have been successful, but the hamburger remains the king of the grab-a-lunch trade, followed closely by the hot dog or coney island.

As for Biggs, in four short years he had not only repaid his small debts, but was the owner of a shiny new restaurant at the corner where he first had his pushcart, Main and Mill. Bob's Place served juicy steaks, sea food, in fact about everything including hamburgers—either plain or "educated." The place was also known as the Horseshoe Restaurant, because of its large, horseshoe-shaped counter.

The man who came to Ardmore looking for work found himself owner of a profitable business providing work for several other persons, and with the distinction of being the father of Ardmore hamburgers.

ABOUT HOTELS AND THINGS

By George Norris

Missus Mack probably had another name but we early-day Ardmores didn't know her by any other. She and her husband, Angus, a wee Scot, operated the Mack Hotel opposite the Santa Fe Depot when it stood near the present railroad water tower. Missus Mack probably weighed 250 pounds and was nearly as broad as she was long. But she was not fat—muscled like a blacksmith and remarkably agile for one of her heft. Missus Mack did her own bouncing. She never called the marshal to handle her rough customers—she was able and willing to handle that job herself.

Angus was about 5-3 and weighed 125 pounds wringing wet. He was overfond of liquor and his huge mate whaled the tar out of him every time he came home drunk, which was as often as he could raise the wherewithal and find the liquor.

The Mack Hotel was a frame structure built across a small creek with water running beneath it. It sort

of stood on stilts—piles—raising it to a level with the depot platform to which it was connected by a narrow boardwalk, over which the hotel's customers came from the railroad platform. A sign over the walk attached to the hotel read, "Best Meal in Town for 20 Cents." Sounds cheap now, but a half century or more ago it wasn't out of line.

The Mosky Hotel was right next door to the Mack and just below it was the Hardeman Hotel, all of about the same caliber and all depending for patronage on the passengers that came in on the Santa Fe. The bigger hotels, the Whittington and the Wisner would have a "hack" meet the train, with porters escorting the guests to the hack with their baggage and on to the hotels in the horse-drawn conveyances.

Mrs. Mack would stand at the edge of the depot platform and ring a big bell at meal time to attract customers. At train time she, Mosky and Hardeman



HOTEL ARDMORE



HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED IN THE MULKEY HOTEL LOBBY





MULKEY HOTEL

would stand ready to carry in the baggage of any customers who would walk toward their places of business. They had a "gentlemanly agreement" not to run out on the depot platform and grab a grip, but Mosky, a roly-poly man who talked broken English, would catch Missus Mack or Hardeman looking the other way and would rush out and grab a customer's grip and start across his board walk. Missus Mack had warned him about the unethical practice several times, but one day he thought he caught her napping and rushed out and grabbed a man's grip, saying, "Dis way frum the best hotel in town."

Quick as a cat for all her huge size, Missus Mack darted across the platform, jerked the sawed-off hotel man loose from the customer's baggage, and swung him around to a nearby express platform truck. Then she spanked him with her big fist as if he'd been a kid, while Mosky screamed "Hellep—hellup! Lemme down and I'll not steal any more grips." Missus Mack unhanded Mosky, he rolled off the truck, hit the ground running and rubbing his rear—and never stopped until he got inside his own front door.

"That'll teach yez to let me customers alone," growled Missus Mack as she picked up the guest's grip and escorted him across the walk into her place of business.

Rum Johnson was the playmate of Angus, Missus Mack's husband—got on frequent drunks with him and the big gal hated him worse than a snake. One day he approached Missus Mack as she was in the midst of her bell ringing and yelled, "Where's Angus?" She kept on ringing her bell without paying him any mind, so he raised his voice and repeated the question. She

continued to ignore him and Rum, about three-sheets-in-the-wind, fairly screamed at her, "Where in 'ell is Angus, Missus Mack?" Missus Mack never looked at the angry man, just slammed him one lick with the big brass bell and he fell to the depot platform with blood spurting from his bald head.

Then Missus Mack strolled sedately across her board walk, into the hotel and yelled at her husband, "Angus, yez best look out for yez friend, Rum. He ain't feelin' so well."

Missus Mack grew her pork right under the hotel porch, had a drove of hogs to which she threw down the scraps from her table, thus killing two birds with one stone, as it were, getting rid of the refuse and fattening the hogs all at the same price. The hogs lolled in the mire beneath the hotel making everything "nice and sanitary," for that day and time at least. When Missus Mack ran into an unruly customer, she knocked him down, dragged him out on the porch and pitched him down into the mire with the hogs. A very effective squelching method.

Once Ike and Jim Hamond, and their friend, Bill Boggs from out Elk way, brought their cotton in to Ardmore, sold it and proceeded to celebrate. They arrived at Missus Mack's place late one evening while Angus was waiting on the counter and ordered a big meal apiece. Missus Mack cooked it up for them and then sat down for a rest while they consumed the food.

Ike got up from the counter, wiped his mouth on the back of his hand and addressed Angus, "Put that on your cuff, Shorty, pay it the next time we bring in a



WHITTINGTON HOTEL IN THE DAYS OF THE HORSE AND BUGGY

bale of cotton."

"Ye can't do ihot," Angus protested.

"You jist think I can't, Shorty, take that and go chase yerself," growled Ike as he shoved the little Scot in the face and laughed hilariously.

Missus Mack heard the fracas and came hurriedly from the kitchen and addressed Ike sternly. "If you can't pay this bill, just leave yez hats 'til yez come back with yez bale of cotton," she cried.

"Like 'ell we will," yelled Ike. "We're goin' whether you like it or no. Get out of my way. I ain't scared of no woman—not even a big ugly one like you."

Missus Mack grabbed up a three-legged stool and laid about her and before Ike or his friends could say "scat" they were on the floor writhing around. Missus Mack picked up their ten-gallon hats, threw them behind the counter, and then she got the Elk boys by the nape of their necks, dragged them out on the porch and pitched them off among the hogs. "Bring me back \$2.65 and yez can have yer hats," Missus Mack said as she dusted off her hands and strode back into the hotel.

"Gosh! She's a rough old gal, ain't she?" moaned Jim Hamond as he ignored the grunting hogs and pulled himself out of the mire toward the depot platform.

"Yeah," complained Ike as he felt of the lump on his head and gave a disgusted look at the hogs. "If she ain't careful she's gonna drive all her best trade away."

Sam Smith was Ardmore's worst shoot-em-up guy 50-odd years ago. Full of celebrating liquor, he would

gallop his horse up and down Main Street, and shoot playfully at the store windows. Occasionally, he'd ride his horse up on the board sidewalks of that day. Once he rode halfway into a store. He seemed to have the marshals buffaloed—and everybody else but Captain Whittington and Missus Mack.

Sam Smith came riding down Main Street one day, shouting at the top of his voice and shooting hither-and-yon. Suddenly he rode his horse up on one of the highest board sidewalks, spurring the frightened animal as it clattered on the loose boards. Missus Mack came out of the store with her usual big basket and took one glance at the situation. She set the basket down and just as Sam started to pass her she let him have it with a huge fist, knocking him from the horse and into the mire of the street. Then the big woman soothed the frightened horse and led it off the sidewalk. Sam saw her coming and took flight afoot. Missus Mack tied up the horse and picked up her big basket. Thereafter, when Sam decided to get on a spree, he checked to see whether Missus Mack was home at the hotel.

The Dew Drop Inn, located beneath what is now Martin's Drug, was operated by a tough citizen, Big-boy Bones. Missus Mack had served warning on Big-boy not to sell her husband liquor. One day she strolled into the Dew Drop Inn looking for Angus and there he was—as full as a tick. Missus Mack grabbed the little fellow—and turned him every way but loose. Then she led him to the door and kicked him upstairs. Missus Mack re-entered the Dew Drop and headed for Big-boy, who had almost as much of a reputation as Missus



ONE OF THE MANY FINE MOTELS IN CARTER COUNTY



HOTEL ARDMORE YEARS AGO



BANK AND CAFE AT BERWYN IN 1907

Mack as a bouncer—and was about a foot taller and as big around.

"Git outa here, Missus Mack. There ain't no women allowed," growled Bigboy as he squared way for a battle.

"Yez has been sellin' me wee Angus liquor again," roared back Missus Mack. "After ay warned yez agin it—ain't yez?"

"Sure I have! Whatcha gonna do about it?" questioned the joint keeper.

"This and this and this," thundered Missus Mack as she came out from under her apron with a rolling pin and went to work on Bigboy in earnest.

Bigboy's ego was so deflated after his downfall at the hands of Missus Mack that he sold out and left town.

Missus Mack fed a number of Santa Fe men and the company would send her checks, some of them for as low as 25 cents. Several of the Santa Fe men and Wells Fargo Express employees boarded with her and they had lots of fun kidding the big woman. She bought a larger bell and had it erected over her walk where it met the depot platform. Then she could stand on the walk and pull the rope to ring her dinner bell.

Bill Floyd was a mischievous young man who worked for Wells Fargo and boarded with Missus Mack. One night he conceived the idea of running a rope from the bell rope down into Missus Mack's pig pen and tying a pig to it. Said pig rang the bell all night and kept Missus Mack awake. She went out on the porch a dozen times and tried to find out what was causing her bell to ring but she couldn't locate it.

She got even with Bill a few weeks later. Missus Mack came running into the express office when the boys were getting ready to meet a train and asked Bill to "cash this check for twenty-five." Bill counted her out \$25 and later discovered he was short about that amount. He found a Santa Fe check made payable to Missus Mack for 25 cents and asked her if he hadn't paid her \$25 for it.

"Yez kin jist take that \$24.75 out in tying pigs to me bell, Bill," she said. She eventually paid him.

This writer used to drive Missus Mack's cow to the

pasture each day. Old Bossy was the mother of a big heifer calf that was kept staked out to graze. Missus Mack was very fond of Susie, the heifer, and delighted in holding the rope attached to her neck while she grazed. One afternoon when she was enjoying that occupation Angus was doing the hotel wash, a job he hated.

Suddenly Susie started cavorting around and Missus Mack watched it, roaring with laughter. The feisty heifer started circling Missus Mack, wrapping the grazing rope around her feet. Then Susie bolted and jerked Missus Mack's feet from under her and she hit the ground like a ton of brick. The big heifer held the rope taut, like a roping horse, and Missus Mack started yelling for Angus.

"Angus! Angus! Git me loose. Ay can't get up," she yelled. Angus came running, carrying the broomstick with which he'd been punching clothes in an outdoor kettle. "Ay ye sure ye can't git up?" asked Angus.

"Yez know I can't," the big woman growled. "If yez don't git me loose quick, I'll bust ever' bone in yez body."

"If ye no ken git loose, take that and that and that," yelled Angus as he started beating his big spouse with the broomstick. Angus had been chastised many a time by his big spouse and this was the first time he'd ever had a chance to get even.

Susie, the big heifer, ceased her frolicking about that time, eased up on the rope and started grazing peacefully. Missus Mack kicked the rope off her feet and started getting up. Angus got in a few more licks and then took off toward the depot where a long freight was just pulling out, going south. Missus Mack chased him to the depot platform and reached for him just as he caught the freight.

Santa Fe railroad men told Missus Mack of seeing Angus in Gainesville, Texas, where he was washing dishes in a hotel. She finally sent him money on which to return and they lived peacefully for several years. After Angus died, Missus Mack faded fast. She loved the little fellow dearly despite the rough way she treated him. She didn't live long after he died—was soon buried beside him.



Springer



Lone Grove



ARDMORE AIR FORCE BASE

Ardmore Air Force Base was officially activated as an Army air base on Aug. 6, 1942, as a part of the Troop Carrier Command by order of Lt. Col. James M. Walker, the first commander. (Currently a civilian, Mr. Walker lives in Ardmore.) Initial plans called for the establishment of a glider training program, but this was abandoned and the base was activated as a part of the Army Air Transport Command. However, the base ultimately became a heavy bombardment training center for B-17 combat crews.

Subsequent to the cessation of hostilities in 1945, the field was deactivated as a military installation. In the years between 1945 and the arrival of the present occupant, the 463D Troop Carrier Wing (M) during the summer of 1953, the facilities were used by American Airlines as a training base and by the Chance-Vought Aircraft Corporation as a test center.

The 463D Bombardment Group (Heavy) was deactivated in September of 1945 and the numerical designa-

tion remained unused until Headquarters 18th Air Force, on Dec. 24, 1952, created the 463D Troop Carrier Wing (Medium). On Jan. 16, 1953, at Memphis, Tenn., the 516th Troop Carrier Wing, a reserve wing called to active duty subsequent to the outbreak of the Korean War, was deactivated and replaced by the 463D. The wing, under the command of Col. George L. Holcomb, was transferred from Memphis to Ardmore during the summer of 1953, and on Sept. 1, 1953, Ardmore Air Force base was officially reopened.

Succeeding Col. Holcomb was then Colonel, now Brig. Gen. Cecil H. Childre, who assumed command of 463D Carrier Wing on Aug. 20, 1954.

On July 8, 1955, the first tactical assault group to be organized in the U. S. Air Force was activated at Ardmore AFB. The unit, officially designated the 309th Troop Carrier Group (Assault Fixed-Wing), received delivery, simultaneously with its activation, of the first



ORIGINAL PLANNING COMMITTEE—This group met in Ardmore Aug. 16, 1941 to select a site for the Air Corps installation. Left to right are L. T. Love, Ardmore; J. R. Lane, Ardmore Chamber of Commerce secretary;

Harry Curtis, mayor of Brady; Sam P. Hale Sr., Maj. C. R. Storrie, wing commander; E. M. Donaldson, Maj. Gen. G. C. Grant, Fisher Muldrovy and Maj. W. J. Clinch.



ARDMORE AIR FORCE BASE DURING WORLD WAR II



CELEBRATING—The Ardmore Chamber of Commerce presented Col. James L. Daniel Jr., base commander, with a surprise birthday cake to mark

the 50th birthday of the Air Force. Left to right are Elbert King, chamber president; Colonel Daniel, and George Selvidge, mayor.

Fairchild C-123 assault transports ever to be assigned to an operational unit within the USAF. An extremely versatile aircraft, the C-123 "Provider" is uniquely suited to the assault mission, and is capable of landing on and taking off from unprepared landing strips in extremely short distances.

A second assault group, the 419th Troop Carrier Group (Assault Fixed-Wing), was activated at Ardmore just one day short of a year following the birth of the 309th. The group, presently under the command of Col. George G. Norman, consists of three tactical squadrons, the 339th, 340th, and 341st. Since its activation, the 419th has participated in numerous joint exercises and maneuvers, including Operation King Cole, one of the largest joint Air Force-Army airborne maneuvers ever to be held in the Zone of the Interior.

Simultaneously with the activation of the 419th, the 456th Troop Carrier Wing was inactivated at Ardmore. The 456th, which was commanded by Col. James L. Daniel Jr., received, during the inactivation ceremonies, the Air Force's Outstanding Unit award, and Col. Daniel was awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious conduct and performance of outstanding service to the United States from April 1, 1955 to March 26, 1956, as commander of the 456th Troop Carrier Wing."

With the 463D Troop Carrier Wing there are two tactical, or flying, groups, the 419th, as mentioned above, which is equipped with the Fairchild C-123 assault transport, and the 463D Troop Carrier Group, which until late 1956 was equipped with the Fairchild C-119 "Flying Boxcar."

On Dec. 9, 1956, the first operational unit in the USAF received delivery of the new Lockheed C-130 "Her-

cules" transport. Equipped with four Allison T-56 jet engines geared to propellers, the Hercules is easily the fastest transport in use by the USAF today. The C-130 is capable of airlifting 92 troops, 64 fully equipped paratroopers, or 20 tons of materiel at speeds in excess of 370 miles per hour while cruising at altitudes of 20,000 feet and above. The aircraft can also be converted into a hospital plane and carry 74 litter patients.

The tactical group to which the aircraft were assigned was the 463D TC Group, commanded by Col. Luther O'Hern, with three tactical squadrons, the 772nd, the 773rd, and 774th.

In addition to the two tactical, or flying, groups at Ardmore AFB, there are also the Air Base Group, Maintenance and Supply Group, and Hospital Group.

On June 4, 1957, Brig. Gen. Cecil H. Childre was assigned to Headquarters Tactical Air Command as Chief, Directorate of Operations and Training. Succeeding General Childre as commander of Ardmore AFB was Col. James L. Daniel Jr., 18th Air Force at Donaldson AFB, S. C.

The 463D TCW, as one of the troop carrier or combat airlift wings within the Tactical Air Command's 18th Air Force, performs a four-fold mission: airborne operations, air transport operations, air supply operations, and aero-medical operations.

After July 1, 1957, Tactical Air Command was scheduled to begin a program in which it would reorganize its combat force wing structure into air divisions, each containing two wings. The administrative responsibilities for each base under this plan would be shifted from the wing commander, who now doubles as base commander, to an air base group commander.



DROPPING OUT OF THE SKY DURING MANEUVERS





LOCKHEED C-130 HERCULES FLOWN FROM THE ARDMORE BASE



THE FAIRCHILD C-119 FLYING BOXCAR, A FAMILIAR SIGHT IN THE SKIES



KING FOR A DAY—As part of his reward for being Airman of the Month, Airman First Class O'Donnell is served breakfast in bed by Quintin Little,

Ardmore Chamber of Commerce president. Assisting are Darrell Green and Airman First Class Watson.

THE COMMUNITY AND THE AIRMEN

The feeling that Ardmore Air Force Base had been lacking in recreational, social, cultural and entertainment activities which affect the morale of Air Force personnel and their dependents resulted in the establishment of Ardmore-Air Base Activities, Inc., the first totally independent, incorporated community program between a city and an Air Force base in the United States.

This organization assists Air Force personnel in establishing themselves and their families in the community and provides a means through which assistance can be given these personnel in coordinating their daily lives in the community with their work in the Air Force.

Working in cooperation with Raymond C. Morrison, regional director of community services for the Air Force, Brig. Gen. Cecil H. Childre, Col. Marion Hubble, Col. George Norman, and Capt. Francis Satterlee from the Air Base, the Ardmore Chamber of Commerce and a committee under the leadership of Errett Dunlap Jr., and Rhys Evans, completed the organization to start operation Sept. 1, 1955. The Retail Merchants Committee of the Chamber of Commerce undertook the re-

sponsibility of financing the first four months until it could be included in the Community Chest budget.

The first nine-member board of trustees included John C. Caldwell, president; Sam Noble, vice president; Raymond Colvert Jr., secretary-treasurer; J. Dewey Clemens, Gus Hendrix, Quintin Little, Brig. Gen. Cecil H. Childre, Air Base commander; Ab Jolly, Ardmore mayor, and Rev. Karl Moore, president, Ministerial Alliance.

Art Spencer was employed as the full-time coordinator, making him the second in the United States to hold such a position. The board of trustees remained the same for the second year of operation with the exception of Rev. Ira Williams replacing Rev. Moore as president of Ministerial Alliance.

The board of trustees of Ardmore-Air Base Activities, Inc., entered into an agreement with the United Fund and was a part of its 1957 budget.

The committees, each with a co-chairman (military and civilian), consist of the following: Community Services, Law Enforcement, Public Relations, and Recreation.

Membership on each of these committees includes Air Force personnel and civilians with the same responsibility on the base and in the community.



OPEN HOUSE CEREMONIES AT THE AIR BASE



ARDMORE WELCOME—George Hann, superintendent of Ardmore schools, presents the key to the city to Mrs. Muhsocho Frost in a welcoming ceremony. At left is Col. Marion Hubble, group commander, and at right are

Staff Sgt. Larry Frost and Art Spencer, base community coordinator. The warm welcome extended to newcomers to the base at Ardmore has become well known in the Air Force.



THRILLING THE CROWD AT ARDMORE

HARDY AND OLD BUCK

Far from the tanbark arenas of Madison Square Garden, Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum and the Boston Gardens, Old Buck, aged prized high school horse of another era, attracted his last crowd March 4, 1957.

Old Buck was buried within the shadows of Gene Autry Coliseum, a mere stone's throw from the hills and pastures he romped and roamed as a colt.

Hardy Murphy, now an Ardmore real estate man but once the other half of a famous rodeo act that was a headline attraction for more than 10 years running into the 1930's, listened sadly as Rev. Ira Williams, pastor of First Methodist Church of Ardmore paid a last homage to the "Wonder Horse of the World."

Old Buck, a Spanish Palomino whose ancestors were brought from Spain by Cortez and his explorers in

the trek north from Mexico back in 1500, died of old age March 3. He was 34.

Friends of Murphy and those who delighted in the antics of Old Buck when they were youngsters gathered at the grave to pay last homage and listen to Rev. Williams tell of the exploits of the great horse.

The listeners reminisced of the days when they tugged at their parents' coattails to take them to see Hardy and Old Buck perform in the arenas of Ardmore.

Buck and Hardy took top billing in the colorful Col. W. T. Johnson rodeos of the 1930's in New York, Boston and Chicago. They also held top spot in Col. John Reed Kilpatrick's shows in Madison Square Garden for 10 years and became the idols of rodeo fans throughout the nation.

Old Buck was retired in a nationally televised show from Fort Worth's Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum at the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show in 1953.

Fort Worth's own Amon G. Carter arose from his sick bed and against doctor's orders went to the performance to take part in a rededication ceremony with Old Buck and Hardy. Later in the day, Carter joined the show and during intermission told the crowd of the great exploits of the horse and his contribution to rodeo shows.

Old Buck and Murphy were called upon time and again when they were in the East for personal appearances.

Old Buck and Hardy began their careers in the show business when Murphy acquired the colt in 1925. During that year, in his leisure hours, Murphy worked at educating his new companion.

In 1931 Buck was taken to Houston and entered in the national horse show where he won blue ribbons in every event. It was there that Col. W. T. Johnson of San Antonio, the best known horseman of the South at that time, saw Buck and engaged them for the Chicago stadium show, Madison Square Garden show and the Boston Garden show.

Hardy once disposed of Buck by selling him to Colonel Johnson but the Wonder Horse refused to work

for his new master and was returned to Murphy.

The man and horse were one of the most colorful and popular attractions at benefit shows while traveling with the rodeo in Eastern cities. Each year the team returned to New York for the police and firemen benefits and for shows at Bellevue Hospital children's ward.

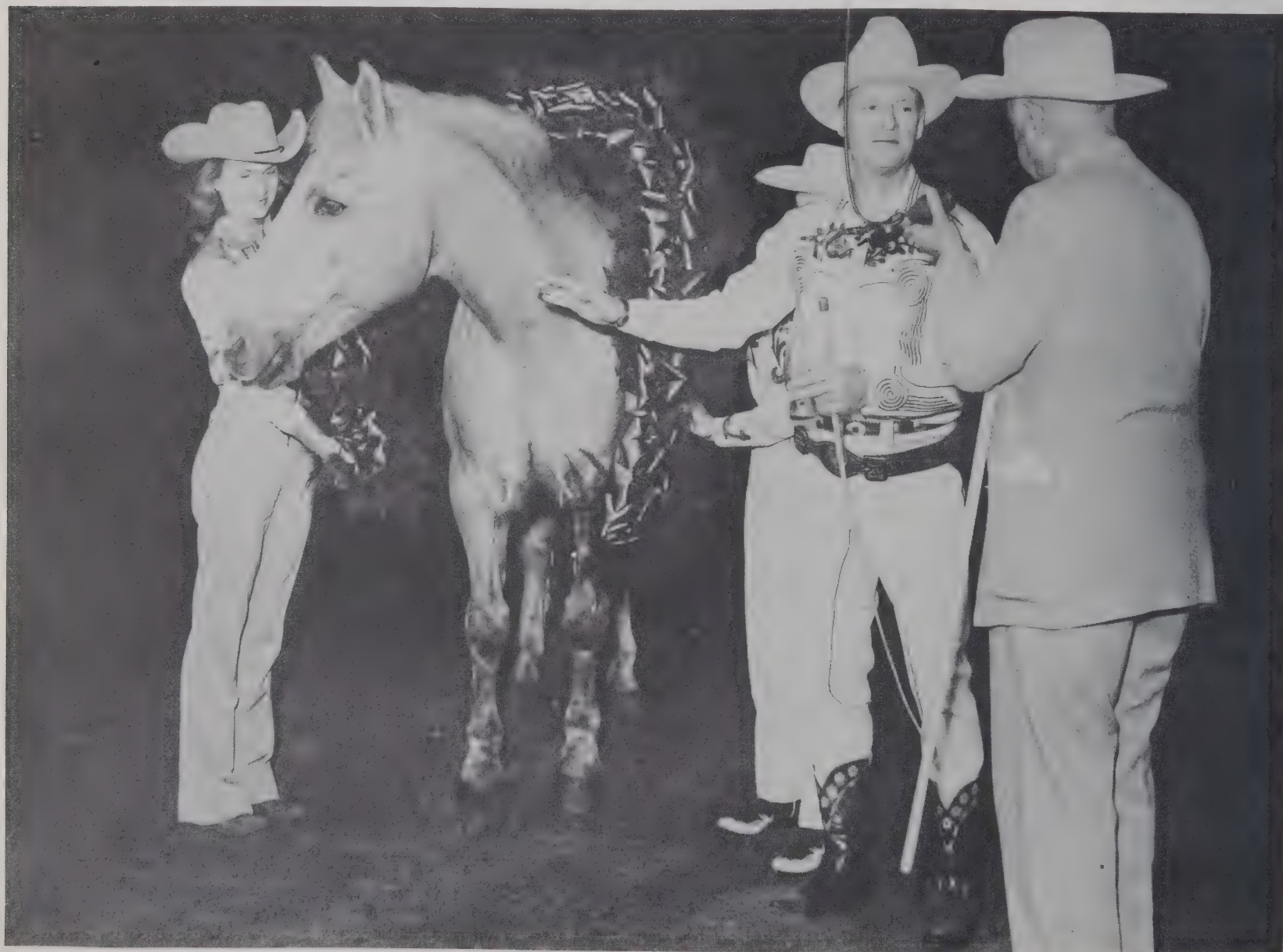
After Murphy sold Buck to Colonel Johnson he bought another colt from Leon Daube, Ardmore oilman. This colt was to be called "Silver Cloud" who became almost equally as famous as Old Buck.

However, despite the fact that Silver Cloud was taken on a trip to England for a command performance before the King and Queen of England and before the royalty of France and Germany, Buck was never quite out of the picture and still remained the top attraction.

Silver Cloud acted as an understudy and many times was called on to do the main acts, duplicates of the feats performed by Buck.

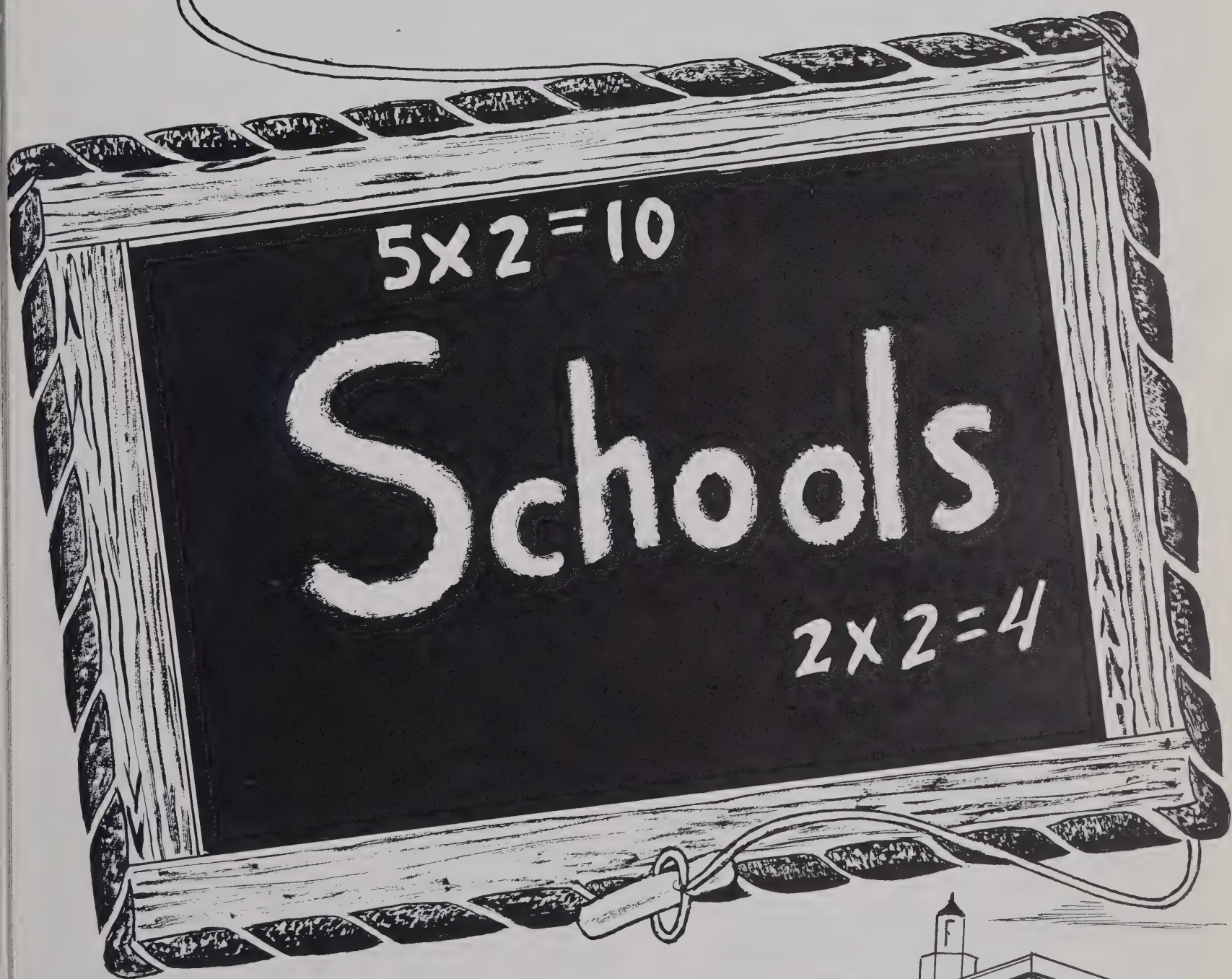
Murphy and Old Buck made the painting, "The End of the Trail," famous in pantomime in the big shows and the devotion between the two became the inspiration for a popular Western ballad, "Gold Mine in the Sky" by Charles and Nick Kenney who used a picture of the pair for their sheet music cover.

Another song was dedicated to Buck and Murphy. It was "A Cowboy's Best Friend," written by Frank Luther.



FAREWELL BOW—Old Buck and Hardy Murphy appeared on national television from the arena of the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show

Rodeo when the talented animal was retired. Giving the farewell talk was Amon G. Carter, Fort Worth publisher.





DRESSED UP IN 1900—Mrs. Mary V. Niblack poses with a class in front of the school named for her. Note the long black stockings and fancy collars. On the front row, left to right, are George Cox, Ford Whitehurst

and E. P. Ledbetter. On the second row are Bill Turner, Floyd Randolph and Arthur Randolph (?). The girl on the extreme right in the second row is Foy Whitehurst. Others are unidentified.

FROM LUCK TO A PLANNED PROGRAM

The education children received in early Indian Territory days was largely a matter of luck; homegrown most of the time like everything else, it depended a great deal on the education, interests and means of the parents or on the qualifications of scattered teachers and tutors.

Many of the early neighborhoods would erect a building to be used as a church, schoolhouse and perhaps a lodge hall and general meeting place.

The Chickasaw Nation finally provided free schools for Indians to which whites were sometimes allowed to go if they paid a small tuition.

Indian academies and mission schools are not being considered here. Their programs generally included instruction in higher grades than did the regular neighborhood schools and they were considered generally good. However, many of them were short-lived, they were never large in number and were very widely scattered.

Neighborhood Indian elementary schools were under the overall supervision of a superintendent. If a neighborhood had at least 10 Indian children between the ages of six and 14, it could petition for a school. If the request was granted, a local person was appointed as trustee. He was supposed to visit the school periodically and make reports to the superintendent. There was no standardization of textbooks or courses of study.

This was certainly a democratic process, in the broad

sense, but one that would fluctuate in quality according to who was the trustee; he might be a college graduate or he might not have ever seen a school himself, in which case he was likely to have rather startling ideas as to what constituted a good school! He was assumed to be honest, but having to answer only to a far-away superintendent, he could easily be dishonest if he were clever. Assuming the superintendent was qualified for his post, lack of telephones and primitive mail service coupled with no roads or poor roads and slow vehicles made for ineffectual management.

If a neighborhood had the minimum of 10 prospective Indian students it could allow enough additional Indians to come board in the neighborhood to make a maximum of 30 pupils per teacher. Eight dollars was sent each month for each pupil's board. Where he slept or what he ate depended on the family with whom he was quartered. It is to be imagined that quite a few trustees or families of trustees ran boarding houses. At one time the teachers earned \$450 for a 10-month session—likely interrupted by lapses of farm work for the children.

So the early elementary Indian schools varied in quality. Some of the more affluent citizens hired tutors for their children and there were some subscription schools supported by several families with whom the teacher in many cases lived in turn. Some schools provided housing for the teachers on the campus.

Until 1899 there were no free schools for whites in Carter County. By 1907 there were 14. The coming of statehood was the spark that set off the building of the present fine public school system. By 1931 there were 52 schools in the county. Eight were consolidated, a trend that has continued, and the towns had formed independent districts.

The first county school superintendent under statehood was Mary V. Niblack. She was followed by Fred Tucker, L. M. Thurston and George W. Coffman.

The fifth superintendent, Mrs. Kate Galt Zaneis, took over in 1920. In 1923 she was the author of the "Journal of Carter County Schools," an extremely comprehensive survey of all the schools in the county and organizations connected with the schools. This 400-page book is full of facts and photographs of county and city schools, even going so far as to show the official plat of each district.

The names and addresses of all persons registered in the 1923 scholastic census as being heads of families were even listed, with the exception of those living in Ardmore and Wilson. Those two towns had published city directories from which that information could be obtained.

Oil development has greatly increased the wealth of Carter County schools, progress has been continuous and these schools compare favorably with schools to be found anywhere. Omer Rowe is the present county superintendent.

THREE R'S IN A WAGON

Mrs. Nora Hoffman says that the first school in Ardmore was conducted in a covered wagon by Mrs. Will Robinson. At times of heavy enrollment as many as three or four wagons would be lined up with the children seated inside on benches along the sides and a stove going in the center. Tom Frensley was one of these pupils.

This was in the days when a few homes dotted the landscape and were connected by unpaved streets full of holes and always either mud bogs or the cause of dust clouds when traffic wended through them or when the wind blew.



JEFFERSON FIRST GRADE, 1907



ARDMORE ORCHESTRA, 1923



SUBSCRIPTION SCHOOL IN ARDMORE IN 1899

MISSION AND 'SCRIPTION SCHOOLS

Until the passage of the Curtis Act in 1898 there were no public-supported schools for white children and parents had to band together and hustle to find teachers. This was the heyday of the subscription school. For about \$3 per month per child almost anybody could set up a school to instruct the young.

The Chickasaw government paid the tuition and board of Indian children attending a non-citizen school. This was continued until 1892. Too many unqualified persons were taking advantage of the situation by operating "schools" which taught very little and had been established for the purpose of getting as much of the Chickasaws' money as possible. A few bad apples spoiled a good thing.

Though there was no examining board or other formal means to test the fitness of a teacher, early Ardmore was fortunate in getting able "scription" school teachers.

Lina Roberson started a school in Ardmore in 1889 when the town was put two years old. Her school was opened in a frame building that faced B Street, S.W., an ordinary residence changed into a school. It occupied the south part of the lot where Harvey's Funeral Home now stands.

As Ardmore grew, other private schools were opened in different parts of town. Mrs. Mary Niblack and Mrs. Josephine Carr operated one of the early schools on the lot now occupied by the YWCA building.

Another early "scription" school, called the South

Ardmore School, was operated by Van McCullough and his father, M. R. McCullough, brother and father of Sam McCullough. This school stood near the present Emanuel Baptist Church. Tom Cardwel and Henry Loyd were students there.

The Kinkade School was on Second Ave., just west of the present home of Mrs. Kennett Hudson. Meita Smith, later the wife of Dr. Abernathy, taught at the Kinkade School. Students included Bob Gardenhire, Buck Poe, Ford Whitehurst, Dan Head, Gene Ledbetter and Guy Fowler.

About 1888 T. B. King built a two-room frame building on the northwest corner of Broadway and N. Washington and opened his King's College. Instruction was offered through the eighth grade. Students included J. C. King, Tom Frame, Sam McCullough, Kelly Brown, Mrs. G. P. Selvidge, Maurine Seay and Mary Savage. It operated six years.

T. R. Dunlap, grandfather of Errett Dunlap Jr., taught a school near the present Washington School. It later became the Second Ward public school.

Charlie Rollins also taught a school in that section of Ardmore, and his wife, Minnie, was one of his pupils.

Sally Hughes, when she was Sally Bibbs, was one of Ardmore's subscription school teachers. Besides teaching in Ardmore, she also taught at the coal mine then in operation a few miles southeast of town.

Mattie Bunn taught in a building that stood in the vicinity of Stanley and B St., S. W.

Other subscription teachers included Miss Beula Arnett and Miss Belle Waynick.

The largest and most prosperous subscription school in Ardmore before statehood was Hargrove College. Established by the Methodists in 1895 with financing from both the church and the citizens of Ardmore, this college continued in operation until 1913. There were brick school buildings and dormitories for both boys and girls. Instruction was given from the first grade through the first two years of college by teachers who were holders of a bachelor or higher degree. Courses ran the gamut from the three R's to foreign languages and the classics. "Mental and Moral Sciences" was a mixture of religion, philosophy, ethics and psychology. Art, music and literature were not neglected.

Rev. J. A. Thomas was the first president of Har-

grove. The first trustees included Dr. A. J. Wolverton, president; Rev. A. C. Pickens, secretary, and Reuben Hardy, treasurer. The school's motto was "Educate instead of Graduate." The 80-acre campus was located at the end of the present D St., N.W.

The Roman Catholics established Saint Agnes Academy at Ardmore in 1898 and staffed it with five teaching sisters. It was located on E St., S.W., and once served 120 pupils, including many Protestants and Indians. With the opening of public schools, enrollment at Saint Agnes and other private schools declined, and by 1907 there were only 55 boarders and 25 day students, mostly Catholics.

A day school with an enrollment of 25 was opened in 1898 by Saint Philip's Episcopal Church, but was closed in 1900 when public schools made its continuance impractical.

The Baptists also operated an early short-lived college in Ardmore.



MRS. BARRY'S SCHOOL ABOUT 1890

THE BUSINESS WORLD

In the old days regular schools shied away from commercial subjects and the business college was a necessity for persons with interests along that line. Penmanship was an important study before the typewriter came into general use and the ability to write a beautiful hand was a matter of great pride and an important asset when it came time to look for a job. Learning to write good English and speak clearly was also stressed.

Clint Dove is apparently the only Rudisill Business College student still in this area. The school was located near the present Douglass School and John F. Easley was one of the professors.

J. M. Rudisill was the founder and the official

name was the Indianola Business College and Literary Institute. By 1895 there were 80 students, and a new building was built one mile northeast of the railroad station. There were courses not only in the usual business subjects such as penmanship, bookkeeping, accounting and stenography, but also an extensive program in the fields of music, art and elocution.

George P. Selvidge took over Indianola in 1903 and it became Selvidge Business College—a forerunner of today's Ardmore Business College.

For a short time in the late 1890's a Professor Mooney held night school for adults who had heretofore not learned to read and write.



ARDMORE HIGH SCHOOL

ARDMORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This story on the background of the Ardmore school system was taken from the writings of George Norriss which were published in the Daily Ardmoreite. The information furnishes an excellent insight into the problems of the system in its infancy and the strides taken in bringing the system to its current status.

When the Ardmore public schools opened in September of 1899 the enrollment was about 900 and today the number of students is in excess of 4,400.

J. R. Hendrix, the first superintendent of schools, had a faculty of 20 teachers and three other employees. The Ardmore school of 1899-1900 operated on a budget of approximately \$5,000 while the budget for the 1957 term of school totaled more than \$868,000. The present faculty numbers 151 teachers and the total number of school employees is 175.

The Ardmore school system of 1899 owned neither a foot of property nor a building—even the chalk and blackboards were bought on credit. The original buildings were rented from the owners. The city didn't own any school buildings until 1903. Supt. J. R. Hendrix was hired at \$900 a year, but the first school term was only six months during the first three years our schools were operated.

The high school principal was paid \$50 per month while the teachers' salaries ran from \$30 to \$40 per month—one at \$22.50. The only full-time janitor was paid \$12 a month, and part-time ones, \$6 to \$7.50.

The school payroll of 1899 ran about \$600 a month. Today it is approximately \$40,000 per month. The first

teachers received warrants which they had a hard time cashing at face value. Many of them had to be discounted. But for the kindness of an early day school board member, Jeff Banks, Ardmore merchant, all of the school warrants would have had to be discounted.

Mayor John L. Galt, the first mayor, elected in 1898, called the first school board meeting on March 11, 1899, and administered the oath of office to the members. They then organized, naming H. C. Potterf as president. Other members of this original school board were W. S. Wolverton, J. W. Banks, Dr. S. S. Carr, George Henry Bruce and Charles D. Carter. All of these men are now deceased.

Their first order of business was to hire J. R. Hendrix as superintendent of schools and arrange for buildings in which to open school.

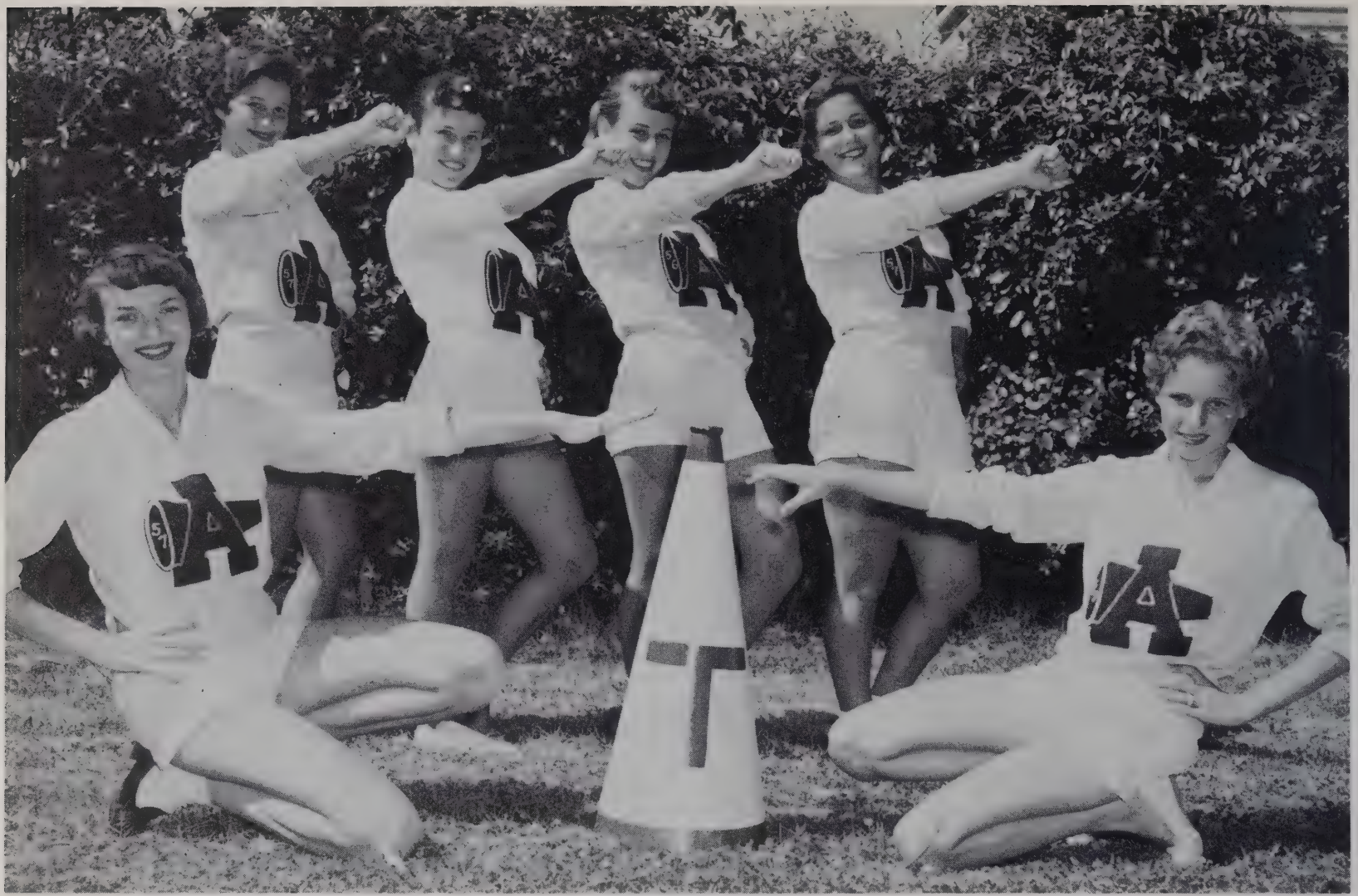
King College, on the corner of Washington and Broadway, just north of the present post office, was rented from T. B. King, who owned and operated it. He was hired as assistant principal of the school. Teachers hired for this seat of higher learning were W. A. Sniff, principal; Van McCullough, Josephine Carr, Meida Smith and Blanch Bailey. Incidentally, this was the first high school established in what is now Oklahoma.



BASKETBALL TEAM 1951-52



ARDMORE STATE AA CHAMPION FOOTBALL TEAM IN 1953



LEADING THE CHEERS FOR ARDMORE

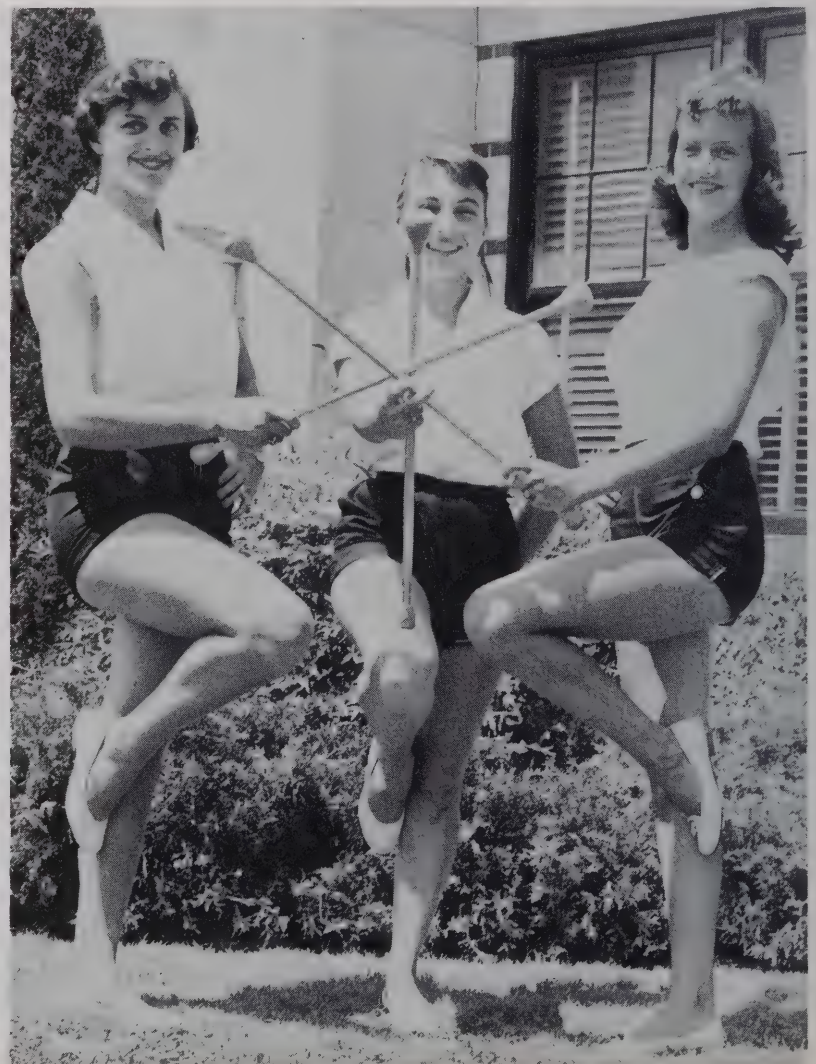
Kelley Brown, now of Muskogee but a former Ardmoreite, says he was a student at King College when the city took it over as a public school. He was required to take an examination like all prospective students. That was before the day of IQ's but the examination revealed that he was to enter school in the eighth grade.

The Duston building, about where the Gilbert building parking lot is now located, was acquired for school rooms, with two teachers, Mary Niblack and Fanny Walker, sister of the late E. A. Walker. Mary (Mrs. V. A.) Niblack afterwards became the first Carter County superintendent of schools. Mortimer Levine is one pupil who attended this school.

The Banks school building was erected by J. W. Banks, a member of the school board, and rented to the city. It was located just west of the Heartsill grocery between C and D Streets S.W. Lindsay Sanders was principal. The teachers were Eva Anderson, Lula Juhan and Nannie Pulliam. Nannie Pulliam, now Mrs. Joe S. Berkshire, continued to teach in the Ardmore schools until 1947.

Her 47 years as a teacher in the Ardmore schools is undoubtedly a record for longevity in Ardmore city schools. She taught the first grade during those 47 years. The first year she taught, some of her first grade boys equalled her in size.

The Dunlap school building stood about where Washington grade school is now located. T. R. Dunlap, father of the late Errett Dunlap Sr., taught this school. The city took it over, rented the building, and made Dunlap the principal. Teachers in the Dunlap school were





1944 BAND CONCERT



DEMONSTRATING ON THE GRIDIRON

Maude Darnell and Roberta Niblack.

Carter Avenue school was a two-room building with Laura Scott, now Mrs. J. A. Bivens, and Allie Moody as teachers. Roberta Niblack was a teacher. Students included Ed Galt, Stanley Cox, Russell Brown, Jay Prater, Johnny Tucker, Henry Keith and Minnie Tippitt, now Mrs. Joe Roberson. Bonnie Porter was another student at that school.

Ardmore's original school board included men of unusual ability. In 1899, they started without school buildings, teachers or money. All they had were kids that didn't want to go to school, but parents who wanted them to acquire an education.

Ed Sandlin, who came to Ardmore in 1894, explained something of what this first school board was up against. Ardmore had only been a city for about a year, so there was no money in the city treasury and no credit. A city tax law had been passed, but it had only been in existence a year and there was no money available.

Bonds were floated for \$20,000, but the proceeds could not be used for school salaries or expenses. They could only be used for new buildings. So the school board was forced to issue warrants without any funds on hand to redeem them. It was several years before enough tax money came in to redeem these first warrants.

The Roff Street School was the first built by the board of education. The contract was let to Andy Costen, an early day contractor, for \$598.

Frensley's building was added to the school system in 1903, a two-story frame building that was located

on the lot now occupied by Franklin School. Annie Matthew, now Mrs. Ann Norris, was the first principal of Frensley School. Other teachers in this school were Ella Bradford, mother of Dorothy Hardy, and Esther Gibson, now Mrs. Hal Cannon.

Hassie Pruitt, now Mrs. Jeff Craddock, Dan Head, Jess Bowman, Claud Atkins and Duce Barren were students in the Frensley building.

Ardmore's first brick school building was completed on the lot now occupied by Lincoln School in 1903. Henry A. Stanley, Carter County attorney, came to Ardmore in 1903. He was principal of Ardmore High when it was located in this building. He remembers that every grade from first to high school was taught in the building called Second Ward School.

Judge Stanley recalls Mrs. J. W. Newcomb and Mrs. Buck Buchanan as teachers in the school. He went from Ardmore to Madill to be superintendent of schools, and afterward to Marietta before returning to Ardmore.

J. R. Hendrix was succeeded in 1903 by W. H. Buck. Teachers added during his term as city superintendent were Ethel McGee, P. L. Davis, Lois Cummings, Elizabeth Laville and Maggie Cox. Brick buildings on the sites of the present Franklin, Washington and Jefferson Schools were completed during the 1903-04 school terms. These buildings were replaced 40 years later by the present structures.

Charles Evans succeeded W. H. Buck as superintendent of the Ardmore schools in 1905 and served until 1912, when he went to Edmond as president of Central State Teachers College. Evans put Ardmore on the map in a scholastic way. He was succeeded by Charles



SECOND WARD SCHOOL CLASS OF 1902



THIRD WARD SCHOOL



FOURTH WARD SCHOOL

Richards. George Hann became superintendent after the resignation of R. C. Shaw.

The first class to graduate from Ardmore High was that of 1903. The graduates numbered 10. They were Toy Mayhew, now Mrs. George Selvidge Sr.; Mary Tucker, now Mrs. Mary Savage, Mamie Nesbitt Torgeson, now deceased; Nettie Hardy Winans, Berdie and Bessie McCoy, Kelly Brown, Major Cruce, Guy Webb and Sam McCullough.

Mrs. John Whiteman was principal and sponsor of this first graduating class. Eight of these 10 graduates entered King College in the eighth grade and finished in the 11th. The 12th grade was not added until the completion of the present high school in 1913.

Tom Frame, who graduated from Ardmore High in 1906, played on the first football team, but doesn't remember if they had a coach. He says members of the

"town" team, Harold Wallace, Harry Tillinghast, Ben Sewell and Tom Carter coached them. Other team members were Ross Hessly and Harry Levine. He said they often played the town team.

The Ardmore school system has progressed to an estimated six million dollar valuation today.

George Hann, superintendent of the Ardmore schools, thinks the system operates the biggest cafeteria in these parts. They serve approximately 40,000 meals a month. The Federal government supplies surplus commodities and about six cents in cash for each meal. Numerous children are fed free while others pay half the cost of the meal.

The Negro Masonic Lodge building was rented to provide the first school for colored children. C. L. Selby was principal of this school. Other teachers were D. K. Bingham and L. D. Glover.



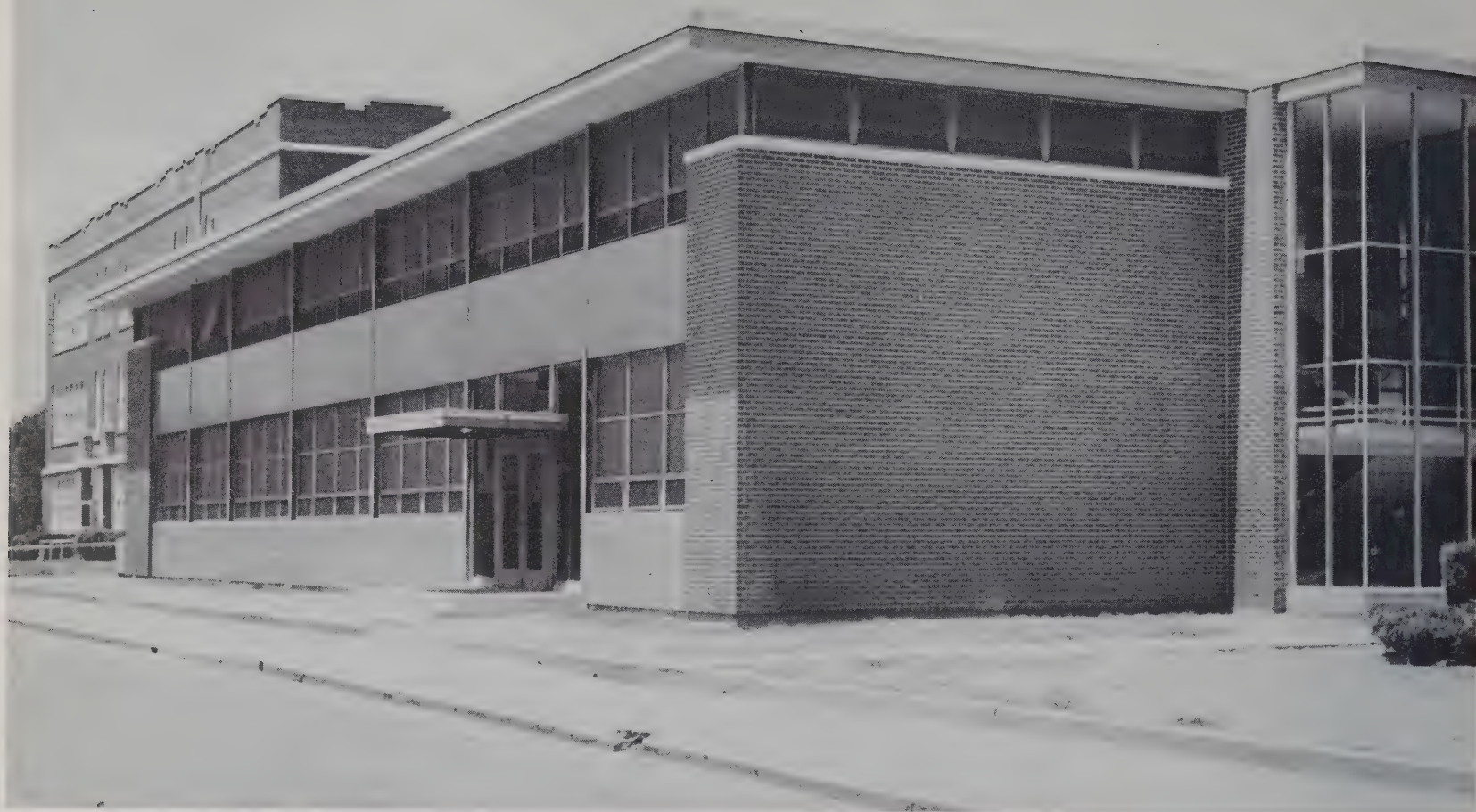
LINCOLN HIGH CLASS OF 1910



THE MARCHING BAND



DRUM MAJORS AND TWIRLERS



NEW HOME ECONOMICS AND CAFETERIA BUILDING



SECOND WARD BUILDING



WILL ROGERS ELEMENTARY



CHARLES EVANS ELEMENTARY



AT HIGH SCHOOL ASSEMBLY, 1956-57

LOWENSTEIN AND MUSIC

Sol Lowenstein and the beginning of instrumental music in Ardmore Public School are synonymous—he came to Ardmore in 1907 from Boston Conservatory of Music and immediately began a program designed to give well rounded music facilities in the schools.

At first he organized a string program and developed an orchestra. In 1926 development of the band began when about 20 youths were organized to play pep and martial music. This organization grew and became an aggregation which could both march well and play excellent concerts. The dual role has continued to be a major function of the band.

After 33 years of service Lowenstein resigned and Paul Enix took over as band director. During the next

two years the high school band became well known for its fine concert work. Enix went into service and Raymond Gabbard assumed the music directorship. After 12 years of teaching in the system Gabbard quit to go into private business and Albert H. Fitzgerald was secured to serve as director of instrumental music in Ardmore.

The present "Pride of AHS" is composed of 72 members and marches for rodeo, Armed Forces, Christmas, Homecoming and other parades. It also lends flavor to the football season with impressive half-time displays and gives concerts each year for school assemblies. The band members also perform in annual mid-winter and coronation concerts as well as participate in district and state music contests.



BLOOMFIELD TEACHERS ABOUT 1896

CARTER SEMINARY

The story of the present Carter Seminary at Ardmore goes back to 1852 when it was founded south of Durant as Bloomfield Academy for Indian girls. The school was jointly sponsored by the Methodist Indian Conference and the Chickasaw Nation. Rev. John Harpole Carr, the founder, selected the wilderness site and helped with the construction. He had been reared under primitive frontier conditions in a sparsely settled section of Arkansas Territory and was well prepared for the struggles of building a new school in a rugged country.

Rev. Carr was skilled with tools and did much of the school's maintenance work himself in order to stretch the meager budget. He supplied most of the coffins for the community. He cultivated a farm and orchard to help with his school's larder.

The Civil War brought education to a halt at Bloomfield and found the building being used as a hospital and commissary within the Confederate States and cut off from all Federal aid.

At the opening of the war the educational work which had been in the hands of the missionary societies of the various churches came to an abrupt stop and was not resumed at the close of the war. The schools which had been erected and held jointly by the church and the Chickasaw Nation now became the property

of the Nation, which took up the work of rehabilitating its educational system.

After the war, Confederate Capt. Frederick Young picked up what pieces were left and began a neighborhood school at the site of Bloomfield. The old traditions had too strong a hold on the people to permit of Bloomfield's permanent abandonment. Among the boys who attended at this time was Douglas H. Johnston, who many years later was to serve as Bloomfield's superintendent for 13 years and as governor of the Chickasaw Nation until Oklahoma became a state, and served as the appointed governor until his death in 1943.

An accidental fire had destroyed most of the old buildings, but they were replaced by better ones, some of brick construction. Rev. Carr had returned, but left in 1867 and was replaced by Dr. and Mrs. H. F. Murray. They stayed two years and were followed by Robert Cole who stayed five years. During Cole's administration the school received an annuity of \$5,700, high school grades were added and the enrollment was raised to 45.

J. W. Wharton became superintendent for the next four years, 1876-1880. The Chickasaw legislature enacted laws putting the academies back to their old, original status as boarding schools with wide latitude for

their own government and management.

Wharton was followed by Robert L. Boyd. Student Douglas H. Johnston returned as superintendent in 1882 and served until 1895 when E. B. Henshaw became superintendent. The school was at its best during the Johnston-Henshaw era. The high standards, manners and poise of the students gave rise to their being called "Bloomfield Blossoms" and graduates wore a tiny gold blossom emblem on their graduation caps.

In 1906 the U. S. government assumed responsibility for all Indian schools. J R. Hendrix who had also been in charge of the Ardmore schools, became superintendent. He was followed in 1910 by Annie Ream Addington who held the position until fire again destroyed the school plant. Bloomfield was never rebuilt on the old site.

The government purchased the old Hargrove College plant at Ardmore and Bloomfield had a new home. There have been many additions made.

Miss M. E. Allen became superintendent in 1916. The school was opened in October, 1917, to Indian girls. Miss Allen resigned in 1921 and was replaced by Miss

Minta R. Foreman. Miss Foreman was in turn replaced in 1923 by Miss Allen, who remained until her retirement in 1934. Subsequent superintendents have been Miss Eva Lowers, Joseph B. Vernor, William T. Johnson and L. E. Larson, the present superintendent.

The school has its own dairy, laundry and other facilities that make it self-sufficient to a large degree and also provide vocational and homemaking training for the students.

In 1934 Bloomfield Academy was renamed Carter Seminary in honor of Charles D. Carter. Carter reprec 1926 and was instrumental in securing many needed improvements for the school. He was of Chickasaw and Cherokee descent.

In 1949 boys were again taken as students after a lapse of many years as strictly a girls' school.

Carter Seminary is now operated by the U. S. Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Affairs and pupils are enrolled from all the Five Civilized Tribes, as the five main tribes that lived south of Virginia after the American Revolution came to be known.



GRADUATION, JUNE 28, 1900



WYLY HALL

THE BAPTIST INSTITUTE

The Ardmore Baptist Institute was opened to enrollment Oct. 3, 1944, under the leadership of W. Lee Rector. It has grown steadily through the years, graduating 55 students, most of whom are now pastors of churches in the Southwest.

Rev. J. Cullis Smith, pastor of the First Orthodox Baptist Church, is also president of the Institute, which the church supports with 20 per cent of its income. The faculty is composed of Mrs. J. C. Wilkes, Rev. Don Kitch, Rev. Raleigh Campbell and Rev. Emerson Whitten. The three men instructors are graduates of the Institute and residents of Ardmore.

Rev. Campbell is also pastor of a Baptist church in Kaufman, Texas. Besides Oklahoma students enrolled in the Institute, students come from Kentucky, Colorado, Mississippi, Wyoming, Wisconsin, California, Kansas and Texas.

The Institute requires that a student enrolling in the school be a high school graduate and, naturally, of good moral character. A two-year course is taught, after which the student is graduated and ordained.

Women students have been graduated from the Institute. Often a husband and wife both attend school.



JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL, 1949



ARDMORE HIGH FOOTBALL TEAM, 1907



THE HEALDTON SYSTEM

The school system is the pride of the approximately 5,000 persons living in Healdton. Not only the center of learning, the schools also offer much in the way of opportunities for entertainment and social life.

Healdton schools began in 1919 with an enrollment of 800 and a graduating class of two the next year. Scholastic standards have always been of the highest. A full program of vocational courses has been carried

out. There are many clubs and organizations.

Original members of the board of education were Dr. E. R. Barker, Henry Baldwin, W. R. Couch, O. B. Avent, Dow Roberts, Joy Wagner and Art Dean.

A new \$120,000 auditorium and gym recently were completed.

Healdton schools rank with the best in the state and students consistently win academic, band and sports contests.





HEALDTON HIGH



DOMESTIC SCIENCE CLASS, 1923



DUNDEE CLASS OF 1922

DUNDEE SCHOOL

Immediately after statehood in 1907, Dundee School District was organized by Mrs. Niblack, then Carter County school superintendent. The land for the school buildings was donated by members of the Dundee-Christopher Oil Company, for whom the school was named.

Dundee was organized as a joint district including territory in Carter and Jefferson Counties. However, a lawsuit over a technicality in the agreement resulted in a compromise in which about half of the Jefferson County territory was lost to the district.

The old Bowman Schoolhouse southeast of McMan was moved to the present site and utilized for several years as the school building. Later it was occupied as a home for the home economics department and the band.

The first step forward in the school was the erection of a brick building in 1914-15 while Mr. Bales was superintendent. In 1915 there were nine teachers in the system. In 1921 there were 21 teachers. The oil boom helped the Dundee School become one of the leading schools in Oklahoma. In 1925 there were 31 teachers and the enrollment had edged to 800 students. The valuation of the district at that time was \$2,300,000.

A two-story teachers' dormitory was erected in 1921 and a large gymnasium and houses for the superintendent and principal were built. At the same time four frame buildings were erected for lower grades. A brick high school building with a large auditorium

was built in 1928 and the building was used until 1939 when it was razed and the present grade school and gymnasium was constructed.

In 1954 a building was completed for the lunchroom and band and two duplex houses were built for teachers homes. The superintendent's and principal's homes were remodeled and redecorated in 1956.

During World War II many families moved from the district and the number of teachers and students decreased. At present there are 14 teachers in the system, including the superintendent, Earl C. Everett. The enrollment is slightly more than 200.

EDUCATION IN FOX

The first class graduated from Fox High School in 1926 with four members.

Mr. Burghes was then the superintendent. The position was taken over by J. B. Monical in 1924, and Randall Holladay took the post of superintendent in 1931, a position which he held for 17 years. Under his guidance Fox school began to grow.

Fox grade and high school, in 1931, was housed in one brick building and two frame buildings. Two succeeding fires destroyed the brick structure and the gym.

On May 16, 1935, construction on the grade building



DUNDEE HIGH, 1923



and auditorium was begun, and was completed on Nov. 16 of the same year. Four hundred students were enrolled at Fox at that time. The following summer, on Aug. 16, 1936, construction of the senior high and gymnasium was begun and was completed by March 3, 1937. J. B. White was the architect and Harvey Allred was the supervisor of both of these constructions.

Even in 1937 the school buses played a great role in the life of Fox school. Each day 10 buses traveled an area of 50 miles to bring approximately 750 students to school.

In 1939 the junior high building was erected.

It was quite a few years before any more buildings were constructed at Fox.

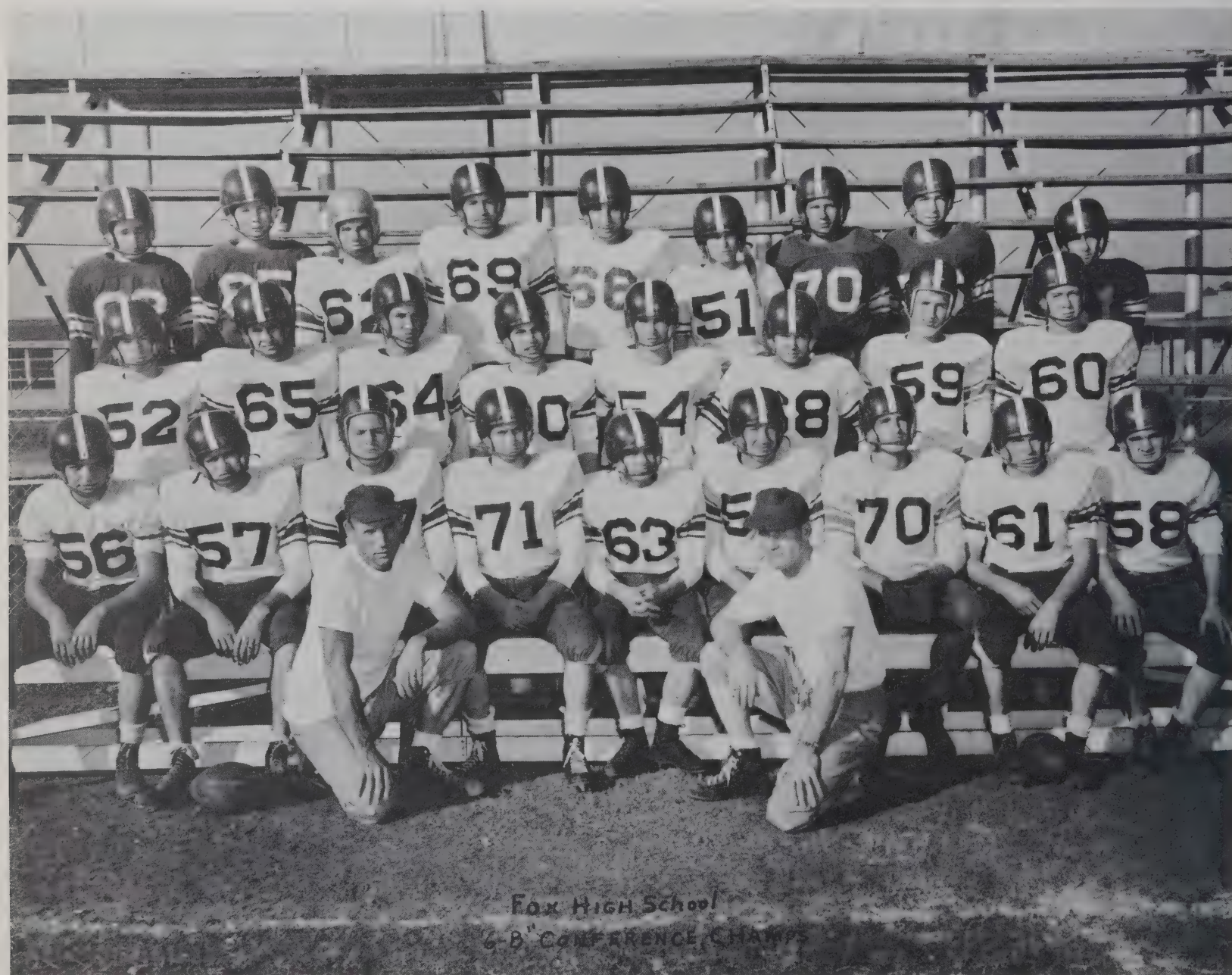
Carl Buck, superintendent of Fox schools since 1948, began taking more steps in building and progress.

In 1953 a new athletic building was constructed and in 1954 construction on a \$35,000 fine arts building, housing the science, home economics, band and vocal departments was erected. This modern structure is electrically heated, has fluorescent lighting, the walls

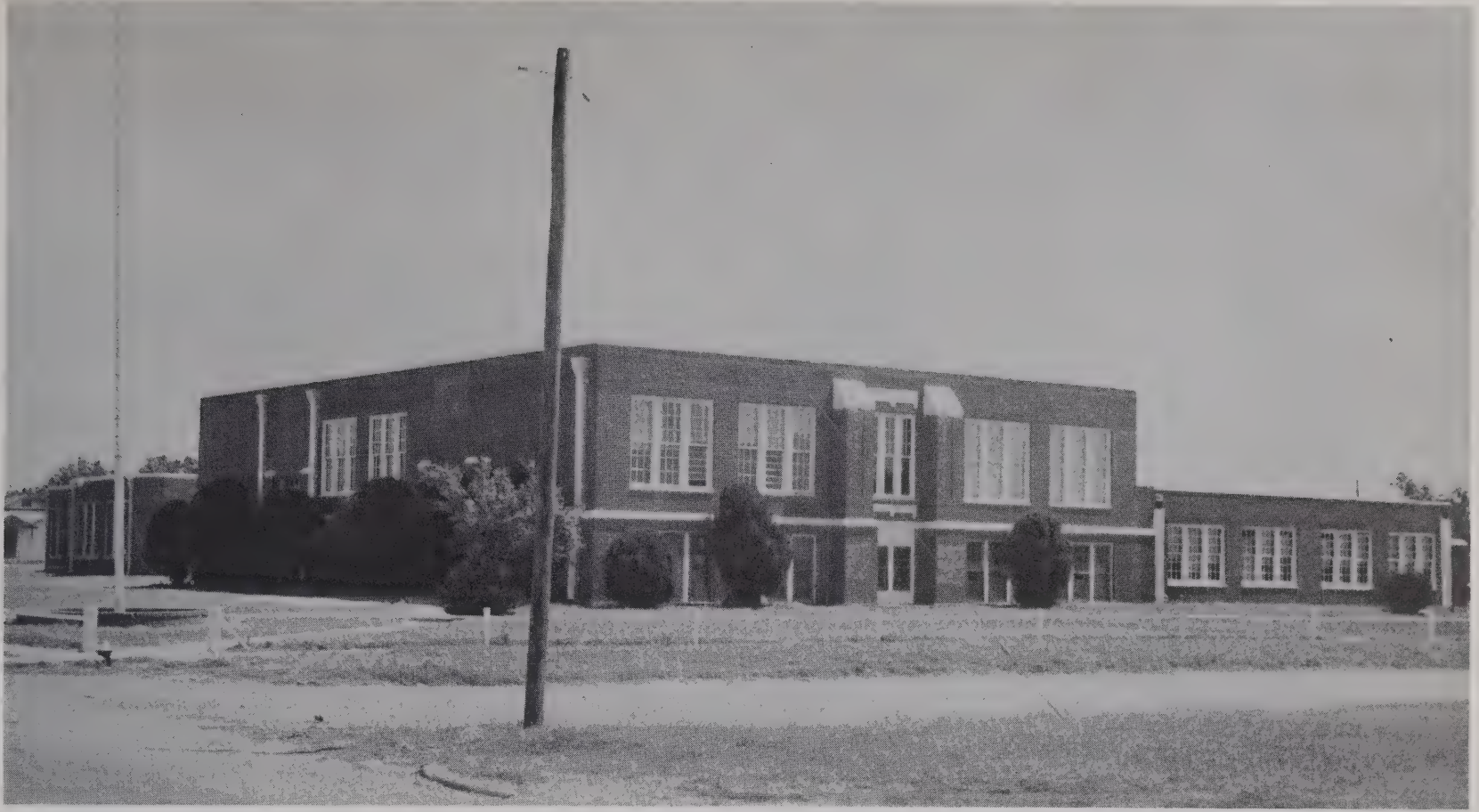
are pastel colored and the floors are of light gray tile. The building is equipped with formica topped desks, as is every classroom in the school. The home economics department has a new living room suite, a washer and dryer, a complete gas kitchen and an electrical kitchen; also, many electric sewing machines. The science department is equipped with laboratory facilities.

During the summer of 1956, steel windows were installed in all school buildings. Dressing rooms were built onto the back of the gymnasium, and a new brick Fox Den was constructed taking the place of a frame building. Construction of the new \$40,000 brick cafeteria also was begun. Upon completion of the new cafeteria in November, 1956, the old one was turned into a teen-town where students may go during the noon hour to listen to records and play games.

Each day 11 school buses collect and transport approximately 95 per cent of the Fox students. The school is in Independent District No. 74 which contains 200 square miles.



FOX HIGH SIX-B CHAMPIONS, 1954-55



WILSON HIGH SCHOOL

THE WILSON SYSTEM

In 1907 G. V. Pardue, later an attorney in Lubbock, Texas, reorganized a small school at Hewitt, and taught there until 1911. There were only two teachers in a small frame building.

A. A. Rogers succeeded Pardue, and soon after his taking over the Hewitt school, a brick building of six rooms and an auditorium were built in Wilson where the South Ward school now stands; the cost was \$10,000. There were seven teachers in the system at that time. A short time after the brick structure was erected, a two-room frame building was put on the same grounds to accommodate the increasing enrollment from the town, and a small frame building, called the Ward School, was built two miles north of Wilson on the Frank Ward farm.

In 1915 a high school was organized in Wilson with T. H. Reynolds, later head of the history department of Oklahoma A&M College, as principal. The only member of the first graduating class of 1915 was Eugene Brimer, later one of the owners of Brimer Brothers' store at Wilson.

In 1918 a three-story high school building was erected at a cost of \$40,000 on the site of the present high school building. R. O. Webb was the first principal in this building. Another room was added to the Ward School, and the Carter Oil Company built a two-room building at Dillard. In 1921 the Strawn Building was constructed at Dillard, and a \$90,000 addition was added to the high school building. The old building at South Ward was remodeled into a one-story building of 14 rooms at a cost of \$78,000. The Methodist Church at Dillard was now being used as four classrooms to accommodate the increasing enrollment. By this time the faculty numbered 45.

In 1922 F. P. Diffie succeeded Rogers as superintendent. About this time the late Ambrose Ward donated 10 acres of land one mile west of Dillard to the Wilson schools to be used as a site for an elementary school. A brick building of 14 classrooms, an auditorium and a cafeteria were soon erected and ready for use. This building furnished the most modern accommodations to the pupils who had formerly been attending school in the small buildings at different locations in the oilfield community.

The schools continued to grow under the administrations of Diffie and his successor, Requa Bell. During the latter's administration the faculty included 56 teachers. Other superintendents who followed were E. L. Cantrell, S. C. Wood, Mr. Martin, W. D. Carr, John Turner, O. E. VanMeter, and the present superintendent, H. D. Gound, who has held this position for the past 10 years.

While W. D. Carr was superintendent, the third story was taken from the high school building; the Ambrose Ward school was torn down, and the combination gymnasium and auditorium which is still in use was built just north of the high school building.

At present only the buildings which are within the city limits are in use. Pupils are now brought from the outlying districts to the city schools by school busses.

Under Gound's administration, a shop building was erected on the high school grounds and a lunchroom on the South Ward grounds; many improvements have been made within the buildings and much modern equipment has been installed. The district has been enlarged considerably by the annexation of Black Jack and Post Oak districts and parts of Bryan and Simon districts, and the bonded indebtedness of the district has been decreased approximately 75 percent.



LONE GROVE SCHOOL

LONE GROVE SCHOOL

In 1883, C. C. (Sweet) Price brought a colony of people from Texas into the Chickasaw Nation to make a settlement seven miles west of what is now Ardmore. After homes were built, farming and ranching were the chief occupations.

Finding it difficult to haul all the supplies from Gainesville, Texas, by wagon, Price established a store which caused the settlement to be known as Price's Store. The following year Price married a Chickasaw maiden, Mollie Colbert of Fort Arbuckle and the family later filed on land nearby.

In 1885, C. C. Price petitioned Congress for a post office, to be called Lone Cedar, but somehow the name was changed to Lone Grove by the Post Office Department.

The village soon added more stores, a wagon yard, drug store, cotton gin, barber shop, school and churches.

Before establishing a school in the present town, schools were held both north, east and southwest of town. They were log structures and were of the subscription type.

About 1887, a school building was erected in the north part of Lone Grove. This was a frame building, two stories high (the Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star Chapter used the second story). It was a two-teacher school.

This building burned in 1902. During this period, school was conducted by Professors Peeler, Lattimar and McCrae.

Prof. McCrae was here during some of the period of 1892-1900 and again in 1901 and 1902. He was given much praise for the work he did among the children, especially in the subjects of bookkeeping and elocution. Many of his pupils were later known to hold responsible positions.

Among the pupils of Prof. McCrae can be listed George Randall, Pauls Valley; Rev. Allie London, Oklahoma City; Lee Drumond, Lone Grove; Mrs. Fannie Bal-
lew, Tidmore; Pernie O'Brien, Mrs. M. P. Coffey, Ardmore; Mrs. Ruth Sullivan Dudley, Oklahoma City; Cecil, Jim and Elmer Byrd. McCrae was assisted in his work by Miss Lora Worley and Mrs. A. E. Adams.

After the burning of the building, school was held in various small buildings around the community. Often two schools would be in operation at the same time.

Prof. Graves was another teacher in these subscription schools.

In 1903, school was held in the Methodist parsonage under the leadership of Rev. Charles Clay and his wife Mary. (Rev. Clay was Carter County's first County Surveyor.)

The Holiness Church also was used for a school and Mrs. A. E. Adams conducted school there.

In 1904, another two-story building was erected one block north of the present school. The top story was again used as a Masonic Hall.

During the period of 1904-10, school was taught

by Professors Ingram, Baker, Wallace and L. M. Thurston. These men were assisted by Mrs. Pete Harper and Nell Poole.

In 1910, under the supervision of Prof. Thurston, a new building, a two-story brick, was erected in the north-east part of town. This building was occupied early in January, 1911, and was used until 1929. J. Custer Moore followed Thurston.

Mrs. Kate Galt Zanies was one of the assistant teachers of Moore and succeeded him as superintendent. Her primary teacher was Mrs. Letha Howser Armstead. In 1919, Paul X. Patton became superintendent and organized Lone Grove's first accredited two-year high school.

In 1921, R. V. Hankey was superintendent. Six teachers were now employed: R. W. Bahner, principal; Carol Townsend, Mrs. J. W. Newcomb, Mrs. Ella Anderson and Nina Young. The board of education for that time was chosen because of the size family each member possessed. These men were John A. Heartsill, Mr. Plummer and C. W. Young.

C. K. Sharp followed Hankey and under his supervision Lone Grove was given an accredited four-year high school. The first graduating class consisted of eight girls: Florida Heartsill Carson, her sister Mary, Faithie Hunter Croskill, Dessie Hathaway Gartrell, Velma Young Vickers, Ganelle Young, Cleo Coffey Jones and Mary Ella Stringer Foster.

In 1927, the Blue Ribbon District was consolidated with Lone Grove and with this movement came the use of school busses. Two busses were purchased and one of the drivers was Earnest Arnold.

The building was again inadequate in 1929 when Ray Richards was superintendent and a new building was erected on the present site. This building consisted

of six classrooms, two offices and an auditorium. Mr. Richards was succeeded by his high school principal, Fred Shastix, who in turn was followed by Huston Wright and Frank Warren.

In 1933, Raymond Hutchinson was elected superintendent and the school now employed eight teachers. Hutchinson was succeeded by Jim Smith and Roy Shilling.

Shilling led the movement for building the gymnasium, aided in consolidating Bunker Hill and Board Tree with Lone Grove in 1938. The gym was completed in 1940, and in 1942 Shilling went into service, leaving the school in the hands of Grover Bratcher. Next came Frazier Clark and B. H. Whitsett.

Whitsett added the building on the west side of the grounds which attendance was demanding. In 1949, Leo Price was elected superintendent. Price is the son of C. C. Price, the founder of the town. Under Price's supervision the school consolidated, in 1950, with Cheek and Enterprise, in 1951; Brock and the separate school of Cheek Love came into the system in 1954. The Negro children were transferred to the separate schools of Ardmore.

In 1954, six new classrooms were added, and more rooms are now badly needed. The school has an average attendance of 434, employs 16 teachers and serves an area of about 88 square miles.

This information was compiled by Mrs. Nina Young, a teacher in the Lone Grove schools for 27 years. Mrs. Young wishes to thank the following persons for helping her gather facts and photographs for the period beginning in 1887 and extending to the present time: Mrs. M. P. Coffey, Bud Price, Mrs. Mollie Price Simpson, Mrs. Ruby Ballew England, Bernard Ballew, Ralph and Ruth Young, Mrs. Selma Taliaferro Hammit and Pete Harper.



PROF. McCRAE AND CLASS OF 1900



LONE GROVE, 1902



LONE GROVE, 1903



LONE GROVE, 1905



LONE GROVE, 1927



BERWYN SCHOOL, 1914

BERWYN SCHOOL

The Berwyn School, Berwyn, Indian Territory, came into existence in 1894 when classes were held in a two-story frame building which stood on the lot now occupied by Hardy Telephone Exchange. The building belonged to the Masonic Lodge and was supported by subscriptions.

The town of Berwyn was incorporated in 1900 and in 1902 the school building was torn down and a part of it used in construction of a four-room frame structure on the hill overlooking the Washita River Valley.

This facility was adequate until consolidation with a number of outlying districts in 1915 when a red brick building consisting of six classrooms and an auditorium was built to replace the frame building.

Progress was such that in 1938 a more modern plant was needed and the present building was erected. It has a combination gymnasium and auditorium, six classrooms, study hall and office accommodations. Another building houses a modern lunchroom. Under construction are an \$84,000 combined gymnasium and auditorium and additional classrooms.

Some of the superintendents who have served the system down through the years are G. H. Chance, F. J. Reynolds, A. E. Dickson, R. E. Gilder, R. V. Hankey, O. S. Jones, Tom McGiboney, W. P. Phillips and W. F. Mitchusson. The present administrator, William T. James, has been with the system 23 years.



BERWYN SCHOOL, 1955



BERWYN CLASS OF 1949



BERWYN SCHOOL, 1902



AN EARLY-DAY ORCHESTRA



GRAHAM HIGH GLEE CLUB IN 1930













CRINERVILLE SCHOOL

Churches





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT ARDMORE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN, ARDMORE

The First Presbyterian Church at Ardmore dates its origin to June 29, 1890. Rev. J. W. Moffatt, a home missionary of the Chickasaw Presbytery, helped to formally organize the church in Mrs. Amanda Robinson's schoolhouse which was located east of the present Harvey Funeral Home on First Street S.W. Records show charter members as A. D. Matthews, Samuel Newell, Mrs. Nora Vandenberg and Miss Laura Matthews.

For two years church services were held in the homes of members and in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church which was located where the Carter County Courthouse now stands. In 1892, J. T. Boyd, C. M. Campbell and Mrs. C. P. Vandenberg were appointed as the first building committee. Under their leadership the first church building was constructed on the lot now occupied by the junior high school.

The church building was moved to its present location

in 1902 when the Broadway property was purchased, and the following year a manse was constructed next to the church.

In 1907 this church and the Cumberland Church were joined and began worship as a single congregation. By 1915 the congregation had grown to 240 members and plans were formulated for construction of a new church building and construction was started the following year. Services were held in the church basement Oct. 28, 1916, and the entire building was dedicated at the first service in the sanctuary Nov. 4, 1917. This building committee consisted of P. D. Maxwell, chairman, John R. Dexter, Frank S. Gates, Roy M. Johnson and George R. Fish.

In 1935 Mrs. Eva Noble died and willed \$25,000 to the church. Additional funds were raised and the present Noble Memorial Chapel and the Educational

Building were erected in 1938. The committee for this project was A. C. Hall, chairman, L. S. Dolman, F. O. Carr, A. C. Straehley, John M. Poindexter, Mrs. Margaret Foster and Mrs. Hattie Noble.

During the years the church has been served by eight ministers and has grown from 23 members in 1892 to more than 534 family units. The ministers who have served the church are D. R. Crockett, H. H. Shawhan, C. C. McGinley, C. C. Weith, Horace C. Casey, Glenn C. McGee, John C. Page Jr., and James E. Williams.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN IN 1903

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

The first places of worship for the Assembly of God work in Ardmore were private homes where prayer meetings were held on a rotation basis, rented buildings and tents where revivals were conducted.

In 1933 Rev. Ed Bice arrived in Ardmore to establish and build an Assembly of God Church and the institution came into being on Feb. 28, 1935, as a unit of the Oklahoma district council of Assemblies of God. Seventy-nine worshipers made up the charter membership.

The initial building unit was one room 40 by 60 feet which served until classrooms were added in 1940. In

1950 a complete revamping and remodeling program was instituted and in 1954 another unit was added to house an air-conditioned sanctuary seating 550, a nursery, study for the pastor and service rooms. The total floor space now stands at 12,366 square feet.

The name selected for the church was Lighthouse Assembly of God. The church has a departmentalized Sunday School with an average attendance of 300. Harlan Hunter is the general superintendent. The youth department, called Christ Ambassadors, is led by Rev. Ted Jones. Joan Slate is secretary-treasurer. The WMC is led by Mrs. Ida Moore. The latter group is composed of about 40 women whose job is missions, both local and abroad.

The first deacon board of the church was Walter Day, Claude Day, Jessie Carter and J. B. Lindsay. Mrs. Vesta Bice was the first secretary-treasurer.



WILSON PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH

The Pentecostal Holiness Church of Wilson had its beginning in a tent revival meeting and late in 1932 Lee Hargiss organized the group into the Pentecostal Holiness Church and brought it into the Oklahoma Conference.

Charter members included Mamie Penn, Florence and Sam Sipes, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Spence, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Chastain, Mr. and Mrs. Will Keel, Hazel Keel and Lottie Robbins.

Secretaries have been Mrs. Tom Chastain, Ina Blackburn, Hazel Keel, Mamie Penn, Ida Sisco, Bonnie Reed and Esther Porterfield.

During the tenure of Rev. Ralph Robbins, the frame church building was moved to the present location and a parsonage was purchased. The exterior of the church building was faced with stone a few years later.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, ARDMORE



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT HEALDTON



TEMPLE EMETH, ARDMORE



HEALDTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



ARDMORE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

ARDMORE FIRST METHODIST

Methodist missionaries are thought to have come into what is now Oklahoma as early as 1820 and the first annual session was held by the Indian Mission Conference at Riley's Chapel on Oct. 23, 1844 with a Bishop Morris presiding. Bishop Pierce held a conference session at Caddo in 1881, so it is assumed that a number of Methodist ministers were active in southern Oklahoma at an early date.

The Broadway Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in Ardmore on Sept. 16, 1888 by Rev. J. N. Moore, presiding elder, and Rev. J. C. Scivally, preacher in charge of the then Lone Grove circuit. First services were held in a small frame school building on the north side of Broadway, in what later became the west wing of the King school building located at Broadway and N. Washington Streets. There were 12 charter members making up the new congregation.

The Ardmore Circuit was organized in 1888 and Rev. Lewis H. Stuckey was appointed pastor. He served for two years and under his leadership the first church structure was started in 1890. It was a small wooden building on the lot now occupied by a service station on W. Broadway across from the Gilbert Building. It is said that this structure was used as a courthouse for a time.

The first brick building occupied the same site and was started sometime between 1899 and 1902 under the pastorate of Rev. J. M. Gross. The building was completed in 1903, with Rev. W. F. Dunkle as pastor.

The present imposing church building on W. Main and

E Streets, NW was started under the pastorate of Rev. Ashley Chappell in 1920 and was completed in 1924 under the leadership of Rev. J. T. McClure.

First Methodist pastors since the completion of the present building and the year of their appointment are:

D. A. Dawson, 1926; George W. Davis, 1927; R. E. L. Morgan, 1928; Charles L. Brooks, 1929; Harry S. DeVore, 1931; S. W. Williams, 1935; J. T. McClure, 1938; Robert J. Smith, 1939; William H. Mansfield, 1945; Joe E. Bowers, 1949 and Virgil Alexander, 1950.

Dr. Ira E. Williams, the present pastor, came to the church in 1953.

A brick building adjoining the church on the west has been purchased and converted into a Sunday School unit. Projected expansion, air conditioning, building and decorating plans now being promoted for the whole church plant are expected to cost \$165,000.

A full program of activities is offered by First Methodist for all persons from the toddler stage on.

The church supports as a part of its staff a missionary couple, Rev. and Mrs. Lawson Lee, who are stationed in Uruguay.

Organized as a part of the church and church school are groups offering help, fellowship, service, and recreational opportunities to every interested member. Among these are the Women's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Men, The Sanctuary Guild, The Sanctuary Choir, the Mother's Study Club (for mothers of pre-school children). The Parents Club (parents of older children) and four Scouting units.



EAST HEALDTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, HEALDTON



METHODIST CHURCH AT WILSON

METHODIST CHURCH, WILSON

The Methodist Church of Wilson, was organized in 1892 by Rev L. H. Stuckey at Old Hewett. (Located about a mile east of Wilson.) The first place of worship was a log house located south of Hewett.

In about 1893 the congregation worshipped in a building in Hewett which served also as a school house and a Masonic hall; Rev. D. E. Shaffer was pastor. Sometime after statehood the people built a little one room church house which was moved to Wilson in 1914 (the year the Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Pacific Railroad was built through this section); Rev. J. S. Sessums was pastor.

This building was located on the same spot where the present building stands. It burned in January of 1920 while R. P. Davis was pastor. The congregation held services in the City Hall and an old show building on Main Street while awaiting other quarters.

The present church was built in 1920 or 1921 under the supervision of the pastor, Rev. J. W. Cole. It was built under much difficulty; much of the money was raised by serving dinners and refreshments.

The first parsonage was what is now the Rotary Hall. The present parsonage was built in 1921. Other early day pastors were Tommason, Cleveland Reagin, H. B. Wilson and M. P. Timberlake.

This bit of history was written by Hobert D. Ragland, Jr., as one of the requirements for earning the God and Country Award in the Boy Scout Organization. Much of the information was given by early settlers. One of them was Mrs. E. S. Dement, written in 1947.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

At the corner of F Street N W and Broadway stands a former Army chapel. This chapel is one unit of the worldwide work of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. The CMA, as it is known, has the motto: "The Whole Bible to the Whole World."

The society at the present time has over 700 missionaries preaching the riches of Christ in twenty-two different countries. The sun now never sets on the work of the CMA.

The local branch of the CMA was organized on Sunday, Sept. 20, 1934 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Nicholson, at 552 8th. Avenue N.W.

The infant church worshipped from home to home for several years before locating at the present site. Two of these homes besides the Nicholsons' was Mrs. Hugh McGill and Mrs. F. H. Roberts.

John Pickens gave the church the lot at F Street NW and Broadway and was instrumental in obtaining the present chapel from Camp Howse, Texas at the close of World War II

The Church has been served by a number of pastors, some whom have gone further into the Master's vineyard by preaching the word of God to those who have never heard.

The present pastor, Rev. George H. Dimick, is in his fifth year of ministry in Ardmore.

This church has adopted as its slogan: "You enter this church only once as a stranger; after that you are one of us."

It is the desire of this Church as well as the Society, that Jesus Christ our Lord and Master might be known and loved by all.



PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS, HEALDTON



BETHEL BAPTIST, HEALDTON



FIRST ORTHODOX BAPTIST CHURCH

ORTHODOX BAPTIST

The first Orthodox Baptist Church of Ardmore was organized September 27, 1931, under the ministerial leadership of Dr. W. Lee Rector.

It was organized by twelve men, and before the charter was closed and before a week had passed about 300 had covenanted together to be a church body.

They first worshipped in a tent, and scores of people were baptised into the membership of the church during that time.

Cold weather coming on, the church rented the old Penney Building on North Washington in Ardmore until 1937, when it finished and moved into the present house of worship.

The first service conducted in this new temple of the Lord was a funeral—the funeral of Deacon W. S. Spears, one of the founders and principal builders.

During those first fervent years of this church's life, over 1600 members were added. Its membership now stands at a little above 1400.

The church was founded on doctrine as expressed in the Orthodox Baptist Confession of Faith, and it has pursued a strictly independent course ecclesiastically.

Having paid off all indebtedness against its church plant in 1944, Dr. W. Lee Rector led the church to establish the Orthodox Baptist Institute for the purpose of training young people in the Bible and practice for both preaching and teaching ministries.

The Institute and the church had rough sailing during those early days, but the roughest waters through which it went came in October, 1945 at the news of the sudden death of their beloved Pastor and President, Dr. Rector.

Dr. Henry W. Young succeeded Dr. Rector—who had served the church as pastor 14 years and as president of the Orthodox Baptist Institute one year—in November, 1945. He served one year as pastor and two years as president of the Institute.

Rev. R. J. Anderson followed Dr. Young in the pastorate in 1947 and in the presidency of the Institute in 1948. Rev. Anderson served the church in these capacities until the fall of 1950, when he resigned.

Rev. L. H. Brown then became pastor and president. His tenure in office ended July 9, 1952.

The present pastor and president of the Institute Rev. J. Cullis Smith, was elected to office Oct. 9, 1952. He had been pastor-pro tem three months. He has now ministered to the church for one-sixth of its life and to the Institute one-third of its life.

There have been added over 300 new members to the church during the past four years and three months—about half by profession and baptism and about half by letter.

The financial income of the church has increased almost one-third, or about \$20,000 a year.

From this church and Institute scores of young ministers and Christian workers have gone forth to the families of the earth preaching and teaching the gospel of the grace of God.

The Orthodox Baptist Institute has been almost entirely financed by this church alone, although some other churches and individuals have helped with the financial load at times.

Through all these years the church has given thousands of dollars to missionaries all over the earth. It now gives about one-third of its income to missions and Christian education.

In addition to all of this work, the First Orthodox Baptist Church sends forth a silent missionary each month—The Orthodox Baptist. It goes all over the United States and into many foreign countries. Each pastor of this church has also successively been the editor of this magazine. A veritable stream of other religious literature has been sent forth continually from the church, authored by her pastors.

The church plant has been remodeled, reconditioned, air conditioned and centrally heated during the past six months at a cost of about \$50,000.

The church claims a world record for all time in the number of its members who read the Bible through in one year. That record is 98, and it was made in 1954.



ROSE HILL BAPTISM SERVICE

ROSE HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST

Back in 1909 a brush arbor meeting laid the foundation for Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church, three miles south and two miles east of Wilson. On March 22, 1910, the church was organized with nine charter members.

The charter members were Mrs. Rosa Thompson, Mrs. Alice Bynum, Mr. and Mrs. Hargroves, Mrs. Fannie Hargroves, Miss Mary Dowdy, J. F. Rambo, Juna Hill and Mrs. Ella Hill.

Although not at all times has the church had a regular pastor, there has not been a Sunday since the church organization on which Sunday School was not held. There have been 450 names entered on the church roll since 1910.

The original church house was torn down in 1946 and a new one built to replace the old one.



ROSE HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



OLDER CHURCH OF CHRIST, WILSON

WILSON CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Church of Christ in Wilson had its beginning in 1915 when a congregation moved to Wilson from Hewitt and the members purchased lots and erected a building. The structure on C Street, where the church meets today, is on the original site and the building is part of the original building.

Charter members included Mrs. Josie Harris, Mrs. Maggie Rodgers, Mrs. Henry DeBerry, Mrs. Mallie Renzelman, Mrs. Jesse Willingham, Mrs. Lucy Todd, Mrs. J. T. Kimbrell, Jim Dooley, Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Darling, George Woods, John Renzelman and Dr. J. W. Jones.



CHURCH OF CHRIST, WILSON



CHURCH OF CHRIST, ARDMORE



ST. PHILIP EPISCOPAL, ARDMORE



HEALDTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, HEALDTON



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

ARDMORE FIRST BAPTIST

The first Baptist Church to be organized in Ardmore is thought to have been in 1889 in a building where the courthouse now stands.

Later the church was moved and a division in the membership resulted in two churches—one body being called the Central Baptist. Then the factions re-united and became the Broadway Baptist Church, located at the present site of an automobile dealer on the corner of Broadway and C NW.

An early pastor was Rev. J. R. Masters; at the time Dr. Karl H. Moore was called to the pastorate in 1945, 13 men had held the post. His is the longest period of service to date and he still serves what has become the First Baptist Church.

The church, its members and pastors, have played an important part in the general work of Oklahoma Baptists. Rev. F. M. Masters was chosen president of Oklahoma Baptist University. A member, Mrs. Olive Thurmond, left a large portion of her estate to the

University which resulted in the erection of the Thurmond Science Building on the campus and Miss Daisy Nichols was instrumental in the raising of funds to build the first girls' dormitory at this school.

Dr. Moore has served the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma as a member of several boards and committees including a trusteeship of Oklahoma Baptist University and a children's home.

Present membership of the First Baptist Church totals over 2,000 with nearly 1400 resident members.

The past three years have been record-setting years for the church in the number of baptisms and additions and the number of gifts to outside causes.

Pledged to missions in 1945 was \$4,005; the last pledge was for \$13,000 and the overall church budget has more than tripled during this interval.

Dr. Moore is an American Legion chaplain, a Rotarian, a member of the Masonic bodies, the Knights Templar and the Indian Consistory.



BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, HEALDTON

HEALDTON BETHEL BAPTIST

The Bethel Baptist Church in Healdton was organized Nov. 12, 1950, in the Bettes Funeral Home with 58 charter members taking part in the ceremony. Services were held in the funeral chapel until Jan. 1, 1951. Property was purchased at the corner of Fourth and Gilmer and a building committee was chosen.

The old Continental Building at 201 Franklin was equipped for services and a revival was conducted from Jan. 7-21, 1951, by Louis Hendricks, pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church of Pasadena, Cal. He was called as pastor and moved with his family to Healdton on Feb. 1, 1951.

The ground-breaking service for the church structure was held March 18, 1951, and the cornerstone laying service took place Aug. 5, 1951. Within six and one-half months it was possible to hold the first service in the new building and on Nov. 11, 1951, the structure was dedicated with Dr. John W. Raley, president of OBU, as speaker. Present value of the church property is more than \$94,000.

The building committee was composed of R. D. Thompson, chairman; Larry Eakin, secretary; Wayne Wood, John Stoker, R. B. Koontz and Jack Clark. The board of trustees which received the church was John Stoker, president; Raymond Winslett, secretary; W. P. Bishop, Wayne Wood, Jess Gandy, Frank Taylor and Sherman Love.

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN

Calvary Presbyterian Church was organized July 28, 1907 and was originally named The East Ardmore Presbyterian Church. The initial meeting was in a frame building which had been converted into a church.

Dr. C. C. Weith served as moderator of the first meeting. Dr. J. H. Peterman and H. T. Hunt were the first members of the session.

Rev. J. A. Stanley was the first pastor.

This church was established as a mission church and throughout the years has served the east section of Ardmore in Sunday School and youth work as well as church services.

Early pastors of the Church included Rev. R. G. Canahan, Rev. T. E. Lampton, Rev. J. S. French, Rev. Thomas Carey and Rev. J. S. Price.

During the pastorate of Rev. Price, the name of the Church was changed to Calvary Presbyterian Church.

A lot had been purchased at 801 Third Avenue N.E. and the frame building which had been used was moved to the new location.

Through a concerted drive among the membership and through a loan from the National Board of Missions and through a generous gift from Mrs. Eva Noble, Mrs. Sam Noble and others, the present handsome brick structure was built in 1940.

The church property now consists of the church building, a Sunday School building, a community house and a five room manse. Church property is now estimated at a valuation of \$40,000 and is free of debt.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ARDMORE

ARDMORE FIRST CHRISTIAN

Among the early settlers in Ardmore were some members of the Christian Church and as early as 1888 they met in homes and observed the Lord's Supper. Traveling ministers of the Christian Church occasionally visited Ardmore and preached to assembled groups.

A start was made toward organizing a church in 1889 but it was not until 1890 that a group of 15 actually organized the First Christian Church of Ardmore. This group included Mrs. Sophia Simpson, Mrs. C. M. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Duston, I. R. Best, Mrs. Joe Biles, Mrs. J. Clarence Reed, Mrs. Iris Brown, Taylor Jones, R. T. Dallas and Dr. and Mrs. Littell.

The organization came out of a meeting held by Elder A. J. Farthing of Gainesville, Texas, father of Mrs. W. O. Duston. The meeting was held in a tent rented with money raised by Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. C. M. Campbell and Mrs. W. R. Campbell. Although the group was small, it was loyal, and under the leadership of Dave Cunningham worked and worshipped in arbors, tents and in such schoolhouses as were available.

In the spring of 1891 H. B. Davis of Gainesville held a protracted meeting and by the close of the meeting

the church was able to organize with 50 members. Jeff Davis, son of H. B. Davis, was called as minister and it was decided to undertake the building of a church. The building committee formed consisted of the minister, Capt. W. R. Wood, W. O. Duston, A. Eddleman, Charles Edwards and Lee Roberson.

A site was secured from Frank Fransley. The location was the corner of a field formed by the east line of the Adkins Farm along A Street, N.W., and the south line along Broadway. However, the building failed to materialize as rapidly as it might have and it wasn't finished and the church out of debt until 1892.

In the fall of 1912 when M. S. Johnson was called as minister it was decided another building should be constructed. With only \$260,000 cash, Mr. Johnson asked B. H. Corley, a contractor, to start construction. When the building, the present church at W. Broadway and A Street, N.W., was finished a loan from the board of church extension was secured to pay all bills. The building was completed in 1913.

Under consecrated and talented leadership from the pastors the church has continued to grow in plant and gain in members until it stands today as a valuable leader in the community.



BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST, ARDMORE

BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST, ARDMORE

The Bethel Missionary Baptist Church of Ardmore was organized on a front lawn, met in a tent first and then an old store building. But all that started in 1952; the church now has 150 members meeting in a good frame building complete with auditorium, baptistry, rest rooms, classrooms and offices. And plans are in the making for a new church plant.

The church was organized on August 14, 1952 on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Buck. There were

42 charter members and Rev. L. H. Brown was called as the pastor and served until his resignation in January, 1955 to accept the pastorate of the North Bemis Baptist Church in Bemis, Tenn.

The present pastor of the church is Rev. C. E. Grounds, Jr. who came to Ardmore in February, 1955.

The church property is located at the corner of K Street and Second Avenue NW.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The United Church Women state as their purpose "To unite Christian women in their allegiance with Jesus Christ through a program looking to their integration in the total life and work of the church and to the building of a world Christian community." Local stress is put on "the need for cooperation of all church women of the community to better serve home, God and country."

The UCW of Ardmore was started in 1927 as the Federated Council of Churches with eight churches participating. There are now 23 churches active in the movement.

One early started accomplishment was the sponsoring of Bible classes for high school students and awarding of cash prizes to those pupils judged most outstanding.

Veterans' homes and hospitals and many other institutions have received inspiration and entertainment from programs and gifts presented by the church women. They have helped to support the YWCA, County Welfare Organization, IOA Ranch, the Child Guidance Clinic and the Public Library.

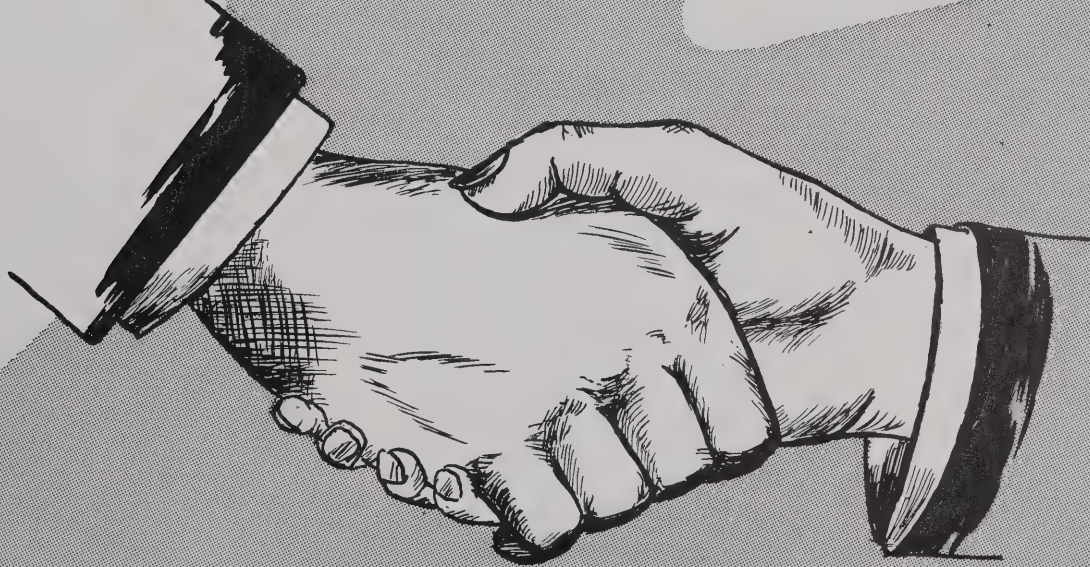


WILSON ASSEMBLY OF GOD



OLD CENTRAL BAPTIST, ARDMORE

One for All
All for One



Clubs

The Sponsors

The Ardmore Junior Chamber of Commerce, an organization dedicated to civic service through the coordinated efforts of the young men of the community, undertook sponsorship of this pictorial volume in 1956 as a project the members believed would prove of benefit to all in the community.

The club, composed of men between the ages of 21 and 35, was organized from a nucleus of men who took pride in their city and surrounding territory and has grown to command a spot of distinction in the region.

By working long hours over a series of months the club performed the ambitious task of collecting material

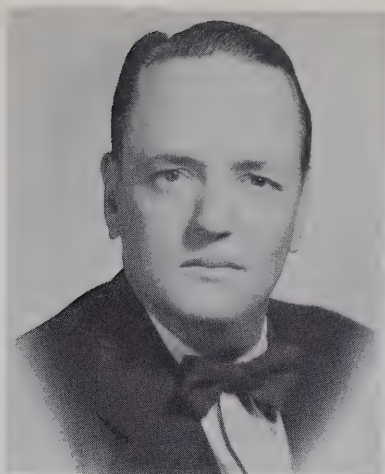
for the book and directing sales activities. Many a spoken word over a cup of coffee resulted in a lead for information and pictures for this volume. The Jaycees "worked both sides of the street" in an effort to bring back as much of the times gone past as possible and to present them as clearly as possible.

It is impossible to give space and mention to all of the members who took part in the project. However, on the adjoining page are pictured the presidents of the club down through the years. These men, representative of the type in the organization, have directed the course of Jaycee work.





WILLIAM STEELE
1946-47



McMILLAN LAMBERT
1947-48



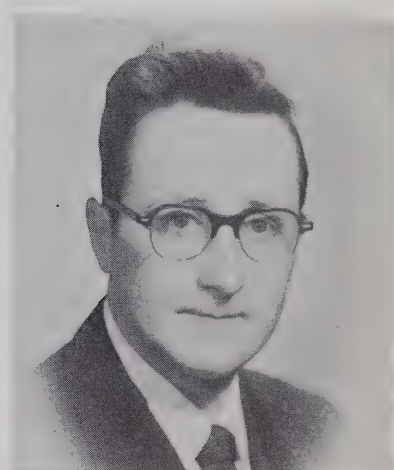
JAMES MURPHEY
1948-49



ARTHUR GATEWOOD
1949-50



JAMES OXFORD
1950-51



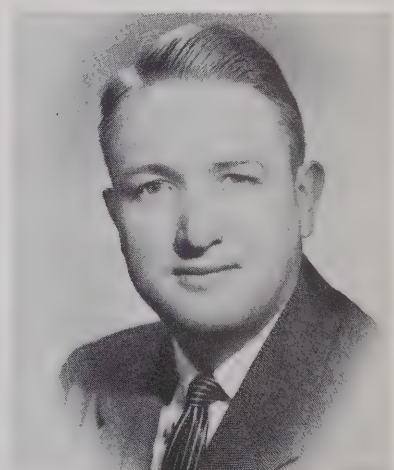
JON HARGRAVE
1951-52



D. F. OVERTURF
1952-53



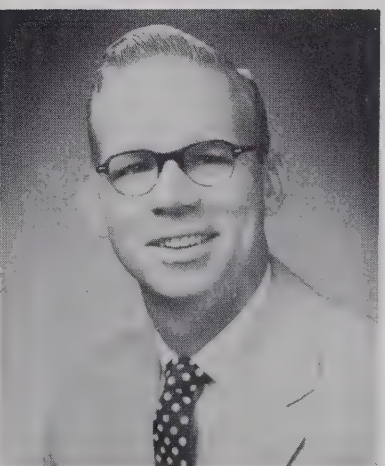
DEAN FORD
1953-54



CLAUDE THOMPSON JR.
1954-55



RALPH FORD
1955-56



WILLIAM (BUDDY) MILLER
1956-57



DAVE DUNFORD
1957-58



JAYCEE JANES LEADERS—Here are the 1956-57 officers of the Ardmore Jaycee Janes. Left to right are Mrs. James D. Payne, president; Mrs. Dewey

Hignight, first vice president; Mrs. Jack Kyle, treasurer; Mrs. Floyd Eaton, second vice president and Mrs. Jimmy Johnson, secretary.

THE JAYCEE JANES

The Jaycee Janes, organized for the purpose of assisting the Junior Chamber of Commerce and for social entertainment, were established July 22, 1949 in Ardmore with membership consisting of wives of active members of the Ardmore Junior Chamber of Commerce. The thirteen charter members of the club were Mrs. Tex Alderson, Mrs. James Landers, Mrs. Lutin Stinson, Mrs. Joe Walker, Mrs. Art Lyons, Mrs. Cal Baird.

Mrs. Bill Straughan, Mrs. Preston Fowlkes, Mrs. James Oxford, Mrs. James Murphey (first president of the Janes), Mrs. Arthur Gatewood (second president), Mrs. Frank Young (third president), and Mrs. Jon Hargrave (fourth president).

Members serving as president thereafter were Mrs. Tommy Bain (1952-53); Mrs. Dean Ford (1953-54); Mrs. James Johnson (1954-55); Mrs. James Murphey (1955-56); and Mrs. James D. Payne (1956-57).

The membership has averaged from thirteen to twenty members since the club's beginning. Mrs. Arthur Gatewood and Mrs. Jon Hargrave, charter members, and Mrs. Earl Milam, early day member, are now listed as honorary members.

In addition to assisting the Jaycees when requested, activities of the Ardmore Jaycee Janes have varied from engaging in money-making projects for promotion of civic enterprises and for providing charitable services, to participation in the Oklahoma Junior Chamber of Commerce Auxiliary, the State Jaycee Auxiliary organization.

In carrying out the purpose of the organization, the Jaycee Janes have aided and assisted the Jaycees in many ways such as maintaining telephone services in connection with Jaycee projects, contributing stenographic time and talent, planning, decorating, and hostessing at Jaycee social functions and conventions, serving coffee and refreshments to Jaycee Zoo work

parties, and, with the Jaycee-minded husband frequently away from home busily engaged in Jaycee business, the Jaycee wife helped by keeping both the children and a patient, understanding attitude.

However, more tangible assistance given the Jaycees by the Janes has been the time and help given annually (latter part of January) in selling tickets and working at the concession stand during the Jaycee promoted Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament. Other noteworthy deeds of assistance and interest were the donation of \$100 by the Janes to the Jaycee Zoo fund (1-9-52) and \$15 given to the Jaycee emergency squad for needed equipment (8-20-55).

Although engaging in civic activities is not the purpose of the Jaycee Janes, the following listed acts of donations and contributions exemplifies the civic-mindedness of the Janes throughout their years of existence:

Donated \$20 to the Altrusa Club for purchase of a Visual Reading Machine (9-12-49).

Donated \$25 to Ardmore's Carnegie Library (now called Ardmore Public Library) to purchase a large upright Stereoscope (6-6-50).

Donated \$5 for albums of records for the Negro Carver Library (6-6-50).

Gave \$20 to the Welfare Department for repair of a child's teeth (2-19-51).

Bought and presented a piano to the Oklahoma Veterans Home, south of Ardmore (6-20-51).

Donated \$75 to the YMCA to purchase sports equipment (6-8-53).

Donated \$75 to the Child Guidance Center (10-18-54).

Assisted a widow with a \$25 gift to purchase school needs for her children after the death of her husband and one son (7-18-55).

Contributed \$25 to the United Fund Drive (10-22-56).

Purchased a hospital bed to give to a local charitable organization (2-18-57).

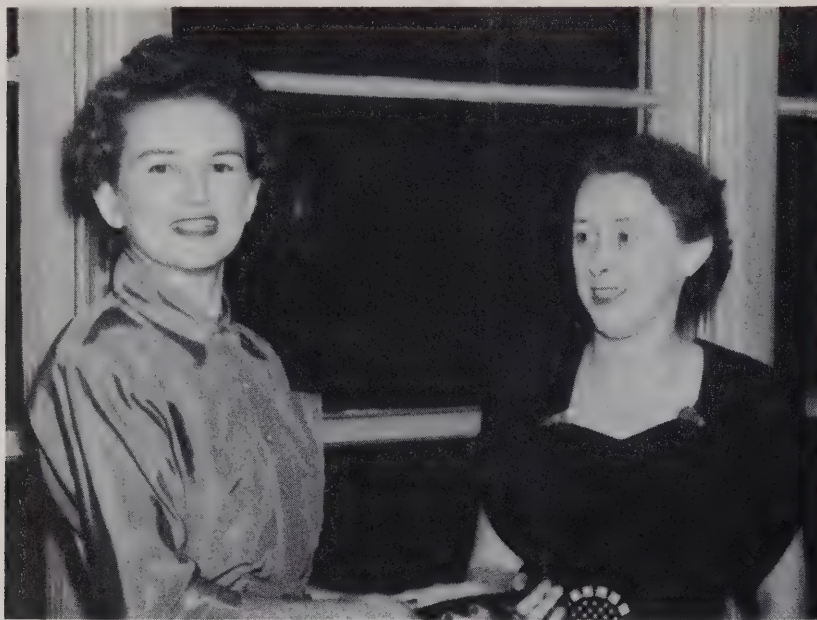


TOM-TOM WORK PARTY—During the 1953-54 club year this group posed at a work party. Back row, left to right, are Mrs. James Johnson, Mrs. Jon Hargrave, Mrs. Dewey Hignight, Mrs. Jack Kyle, Mrs. Earl Davis, Mrs.

Cal Baird and Mrs. Tom Tipps. Front row, left to right, are Mrs. Wesley Neidhart, Mrs. James Murphey, Mrs. D. G. Marchesani, Mrs. Dean Ford, Mrs. Tommy Bain and Mrs. Ralph Ford who was president.



POSIES FOR POLIO—Tommy Pearson, left, and Chester Dennis, receive flowers in the polio drive from Mrs. Earl Davis, left, and Mrs. James Murphey.



CHANGING COMMAND—Mrs. James Murphey, left, first president of the Janes, presents the gavel to the 1950 president, Mrs. Arthur Gatewood.

They annually promote a project to raise money in order to provide a needy family with a Christmas basket of food and presents.

Although both time and money have been given by the Jaycee Janes to many community and county-wide fund-making drives sponsored by others, the Janes initiated a "Posies for Polio" March of Dimes activity that has been quite outstanding. This event, started in 1954, is held in January of each year and always on a Saturday.

Local florists cooperate in this activity and make it possible by giving the Jaycee Janes corsages and boutonnieres which they sell on the downtown streets for any amount the purchaser wishes to give to the March of Dimes. In the four years this event has been staged \$451.39 has been netted for the polio fund.

The Ardmore Jaycee Janes were the 15th club in Oklahoma to become affiliated with the state Jaycee auxiliary group in June, 1951. The local Janes have sent delegates from the local club to regional, board, and state meetings and taken part in the state souvenir program—making souvenirs (symbolic of the state of Oklahoma) for the Oklahoma Jaycee delegation to distribute at national Junior Chamber of Commerce conventions.

During the 1953-54 club year the Ardmore Janes made 200 Tom-Tom souvenirs for the national convention at Colorado Springs; 300 Wampum Bags were made during the 1954-55 year for the Atlanta national convention; and 300 Tom-Toms were made in 1955-56 year for the National convention at Kansas City.

As of April 1, 1957 there were 19 members of the Ardmore Jaycee Janes, as follows:

Mrs. Earl Davis, Mrs. Ralph Ford, Mrs. Harold Harris, Mrs. Bill Lumpkin, Mrs. James Murphey, Mrs. Billy Smith.

Mrs. Tom Tipps, Mrs. Frank Young, Mrs. Melvin Walker, Mrs. Harry Wood, Mrs. Bernard Miron.

Mrs. Gene McFall, Mrs. Virgil Owens, Mrs. Albert Hanson, Mrs. Jack Kyle (treasurer); Mrs. Jimmy Johnson (secretary).

Mrs. Floyd Eaton (second vice-president); Mrs. Dewey Highnight (first vice-president), and Mrs. James D. Payne (president).

IVY GARDEN CLUB

The Ivy Garden Club of Ardmore was organized in September, 1952, receiving inspiration for its name from "The Ivy Green" by Charles Dickens which says:

"Whole ages have fled, and their works decayed,
And nations scattered have been;
But the stout old ivy shall never fade
From its hale and hearty green."

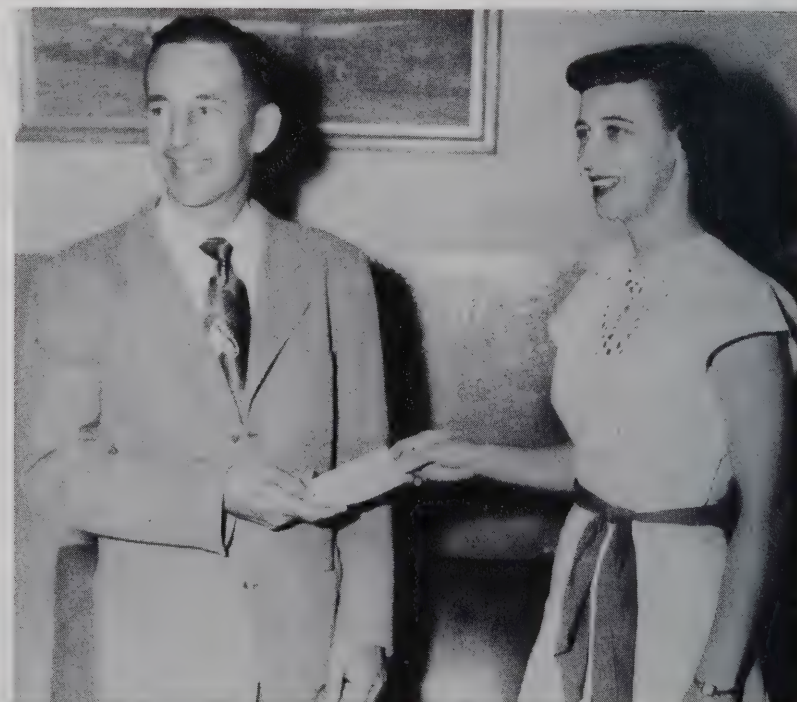
Ivy Club meetings are held in the homes of members on the first Thursday morning of each month. A Christmas luncheon with a gift exchange and a May luncheon honoring the out-going president are two annual events enjoyed by the club.

The following past presidents have been honored: 1952-53, Mrs. Marvin Dinges; 1953-54, Mrs. Sam Noble; 1954-55, Mrs. Charles Van Eaton; 1955-56, Mrs. Jean Neustadt; 1956-57, Mrs. Garland Clay.

Always endeavoring to cooperate with the community, the Ivy Club's twenty members have participated in projects for highway beautification, the Blue Star Memorial, Litter Bug Clean-Up Campaigns, Garden Therapy at the Veteran's Home, working with Junior Gardeners, college scholarships, the Civic Garden Center, and the annual May Flower Show in Ardmore.

Honors taken by the club at the annual flower show were: 1953, first prize for the out-door barbecue table; 1954, first prize for the shadow box and begonia plants, third prize for oriental arrangements, flowers and fruit in basket, honorable mention for flowers in basket, miniatures, and corsages; 1956, first prize for picture box, second prize for the early day breakfast table, and second prize for corsages.

Ivy Garden Club is a member of the Ardmore Council of Garden Clubs and Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Incorporated.



A CONTRIBUTION—Mrs. Dick Jones, Jane treasurer 1951-52, presents a \$100 check to James Murphey, chairman of the Junior Chamber of Commerce zoo committee.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HEADQUARTERS AT ARDMORE

ARDMORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In the early 1900's, Ardmore was served by an organization called the Commercial Club. Two presidents of the Commercial Club before statehood were Sidney Suggs and C. L. Byrne. One of the early secretaries of the Commercial Club was a Mr. Spaulding.

In 1914, the president of the Commercial Club was H. E. Foster and Felix K. West was manager. On May 8, 1914, the Commercial Club met to elect officers. At this meeting, the club decided to change its name to the Ardmore Chamber of Commerce. The first president of the Chamber was J. Sylvester Mullens, Sr. vice-president was Judge J. W. Harreld. Two of the directors were R. L. Fox and V. C. Suggs. Felix K. West was retained as secretary.

One of the most important projects of the early day Chamber was encouraging the building of highways and roads, particularly those roads needed to service the oil fields. Much assistance was given to the establishment of the railroads and the Chamber members helped underwrite part of the cost of the Ringling Railroad, built by John Ringling.

Through the years, the Chamber has been the instrument for building the City of Ardmore. Civic leaders united their efforts through this organization, and performed tasks considered to be impossible. The Chamber helped make Lake Murray a reality and

employed a person full time to work on this project here and in Washington.

At the beginning of World War II, a committee of the Chamber was appointed to secure some type of military installation for this area. From this committee activity, the Army Air Corps located a training base here. After its de-activation, American Air Lines was secured to utilize the Base, and in 1953, the Air Force reactivated the Ardmore Air Force Base.

The Commercial Club and the early Chamber of Commerce held their meetings in a room in the court house. In the 20's this was moved to a building on Main Street and later to the Dunlap Building at the corner of Main and A Streets. In June of 1954 the Chamber of Commerce moved into its own building at 6 East Main. This building is a model chamber building and many other Chambers have copied some of its outstanding features.

Records show the presidents of the Chamber as follows: 1957, J. Elbert King; 1956, Clarence L. Fedler; 1955, J. F. "Buck" Stephenson; 1954, Quintin Little; 1953, Errett Dunlap, Jr.; 1952, Frank A. Wahlgren; 1951, Fred A. Chapman; 1950, Leon Daube; 1949, Leon Daube; 1948, E. C. McAninch; 1947, J. J. Arnold; 1946, Joe W. Shinn; 1945, R. G. Colvert.

1944, R. G. Colvert; 1943, Charles E. Fahrney; 1942,

TOASTMASTERS CLUB

The Toastmasters Club has as its purpose the self-improvement of its members through practice in preparing and giving speeches and learning to convey thoughts extemporaneously.

It is composed of a group of businessmen who meet once a week for dinner, speeches and constructive criticism.

The Ardmore chapter of Toastmasters was organized in 1953 by Curtis Hicks and Bob Bryan. After meeting for a few months the membership had grown to a point where the club could become affiliated with the international organization as Chapter 1320.

Active membership of each chapter is limited to 30 men so as to give each member the chance to practice the various phases of the training course often. New chapters can be formed by any interested group of men.

Woodrow George is president of Chapter 1320 in 1957. Other presidents have included Elbert King, Albert Caywood, Chester Dennis, Ralph Cason and Jerry Womack.

Harley Venters and Walter Neustadt have won prizes in area speech contests in Oklahoma City.

VFW POST 4574

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 4574 was chartered in Ardmore November 30, 1945, with 80 members. Alvin C. Bruce was commander.

Bruce also served as commander again in 1949.

Other commanders have been, E. L. (Iron Mike) Mas-sad, 1946; Joe B. Thompson, 1947; Rupert E. Martin, 1948; J. Elbert King, 1950 and 1951; George W. Bourland, 1952; Scott F. King, 1953; John F. (Jack) Sullivan, 1954; Lyndall R. Byrd, 1955; Harold Gene Morris, 1956, and Marion E. (Son) Herndon, 1957.

During 1950 the organization initiated the VFW Mid-Winter Conference for the state department of Oklahoma at Lake Murray Lodge. Three national commanders of the VFW have appeared as speakers at the annual session.

The Ardmore post has had three members elected to the state office of Third District Commander. They have been George W. Bourland, M. F. Ferris and J. Elbert King.

OPTIMIST CLUB

The "Friend of the Boy," the Optimist Club of Ardmore, was chartered October 13, 1947, and now has a membership of 42.

The senior club sponsors the Junior Optimist Club which has a membership of 40.

The Optimist Club has installed five playgrounds in the city of Ardmore and one at the Ardmore Air Force Base.

Presidents have been Joe Ben Champion, 1947; Eugene Lawrence, 1948; Dick Colvert, 1949; Wendell Sparks, 1950; Gene T. Ritter, 1951; Tommie Norman and Andrew Riddle Jr., 1952 (Riddle completed Norman's term when the latter entered service); John Harrell, 1953; Jack Hinckley, 1954; Birt Tate, 1955, and Gordon Leaman, 1956.



CHAMBER STAFF—Shown with a background of pictures which point out the interesting sights in Carter County are Mrs. Thelma Rowell, seated, office manager, and Mrs. Mary Ellen Shelton, secretary.

Charles E. Fahrney; 1941, John H. Snodgrass; 1940, W. W. Martin; 1939, Dick Pratt; 1938, C. F. Adams; 1937, Ezra Dyer; 1936, Guy M. Harris; 1935, J. Dewey Clemens; 1934, Ralph Tate.

1933, Sam McDaniel; 1932, H. B. Fell; 1931, C. W. Tomlinson; 1930, Hugo Stromberg; 1929, Charles W. Herd; 1924, Leon G. Voorhees; 1922, R. A. Hefner. Before Statehood: Sidney Suggs and C. L. Byrne.

Managers of the Chamber have been Spaulding in the early 1900's; Felix K. West to 1920; George Gibbons, 1920 to 1936; Jim Lane, 1936 to 1951; Lex James, 1951 to 1955; and Roland Descans, 1955 to the present.



ROLAND E. DESCANS
Executive Manager



AAUW 1956-57 OFFICERS—Standing, left to right, are Mrs. Lewis Markley, historian; Miss Mary Jane Wiles, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Horace Mannahan, first vice president, and Mrs. Al Braver, second vice president. Seated, left to right, are Mrs. Daisy Deen Horn, treasurer; Mrs. Emmett

Broughton, advisory past president, and Mrs. Alvin Herzmark, secretary. Mrs. Ralph Ramsey, president, and Miss Muncy Rece, parliamentarian, were not present when the photograph was taken. The club began with a small group and now has a membership of about 125.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

The American Association of University Women was founded in 1882 to open doors of education for women, and to widen opportunities for women to use their training. "Practical educational work" was its objective.

In the fall of 1921 a small group of Ardmore women, under the leadership of Mrs. C. W. Tomlinson, set out to organize a branch of AAUW in Ardmore. Among these women who felt that through AAUW they could better utilize their college training, were Mrs. Mort Woods, Mrs. Beatrice Von Keller Bretch, Mrs. Walter Neustadt, Mrs. Richard L. Disney, Mrs. John Steed, and Mrs. R. K. Van Dyne. Twelve women comprised the first group which chose as its president Mrs. John Steed.

In 1922, through the stimulus of Mrs. George Ransom, who was at that time the state president of AAUW, the Ardmore Branch was reorganized. Mrs. John Bartram was elected president. Included in this group, in addition to the ones previously mentioned, were Miss Muncy Rece, Mrs. E. W. Schenk, Mrs. John Dexter, Mrs. Fred Chapman, Mrs. T. G. Gibson, and Mrs. Minnie Wall.

One of the early accomplishments of the group was to set up a scholarship fund. Each year a \$500 scholarship was awarded to an outstanding senior girl in the Ardmore High School. During the next ten years \$1350 was given in scholarships. A revolving loan fund of \$1200 was made available to upper classmen in the

Ardmore High School for aid in completing college training. This policy was continued until about 1933.

By 1933 the branch had grown from a group of twelve women to forty. During this time the Ardmore Branch of AAUW was led by such women as Miss Muncy Rece, Mrs. John Whiteman, Mrs. Mort Woods, Mrs. W. M. Trotter, Mrs. T. G. Gibson, Mrs. T. G. Johnson, and Mrs. Tide Cox.

In 1933 Mrs. G. W. Sparger was elected president of the Ardmore Branch. She was followed by Mrs. H. H. Dyerly, Mrs. J. M. Gordon, Miss Muncy Rece, Miss Maxine Frost, Mrs. Dan Boone, Mrs. Richard Norman, Mrs. Dallas Luttet, and Mrs. Robert J. Smith. Many activities included the sponsoring of lectures and book reviews, much of the proceeds of which went into the improvement of the library facilities for children at both Carver and Carnegie Libraries. More of the proceeds went into the vital fellowship fund. Several study groups were organized in order to better qualify women to carry on their work in the community, state, nation and world.

During the next five years in the early forties, the Ardmore Branch answered the pleas of AAUW for aid to schools in war torn countries. In 1946, 325 cartons of school supplies were collected and sent to the classrooms of Greece, Poland, China, Italy, Korea, and other countries. The Branch sponsored various cultural projects—an adult lecture course, in Oklahoma history,

a family life institute, a leadership course, and many book reviews.

In 1946-47 the Branch sponsored seven plays sent out by the Clare Tree Major Childrens' Theatre of New York. These plays not only offered cultural opportunities for Ardmore, but proved financially beneficial for the community as well. Much of the proceeds was used to maintain the childrens' department of the town libraries. Mrs. Dallas Luttet was president at this time.

Mrs. Wilson Wallace served as president during 1948-1950. A Kindergarten was established by the Branch in the First Presbyterian Church. Under the auspices of the Education Group, a child study group was also organized.

In 1950 a community survey was begun by members of the Ardmore Branch, AAUW, investigating recodification of city ordinances on health, recreation, sanitation, and public welfare. It was through this investigation that the need of a day nursery was determined. Mrs. Wirt Franklin, a member of the Ardmore Branch, donated the building which was used as the Ardmore Day Nursery. Ardmore AAUW cooperated with many other civic minded groups in the establishment of this permanent nursery.

It was also in 1950, through the investigations of members of the Ardmore Branch of AAUW that the groundwork was laid for a mental health clinic. Certain recommendations were made to the city and county which culminated in the establishment of the Carter County Child Guidance Clinic.

From 1950 to 1953 Mrs. Lane Ligon, Mrs. A. J. Maxwell, and Mrs. Woodrow Hulme served as presidents of the local branch of AAUW. By this time the Ardmore Branch had grown to 94 members. During this time the Creative Arts Group continued the work of presenting drama both for adults and children over radio station KVSQ. The Oklahoma University Drama Workshop was brought to Ardmore. In these years the Ardmore Branch received a Major Certificate of Award in achievement. This award is presented by AAUW to branches for outstanding work in leadership and member participation.

From 1953 to the present time the Ardmore Branch of AAUW has forged ahead. Mrs. Emmet I. Broughton, Mrs. Robert C. Bryan, and Mrs. Ralph Ramsay have been the presidents. The Social Studies Group and the Legislative Groups took further steps to set up mental health facilities. Realizing that their main objective is to educate the people that there is a need, these groups obtained the services of Miss Ruth Boutwell, who gave a series of lectures on mental health and directed committee work in the assistance given to the ground work for the organization of the Carter County Child Guidance Clinic.

The International Relations Group has sponsored such projects as classes in Spanish and a detailed study of the structure of the United Nations. The present membership of the Ardmore Branch of AAUW is 112 national members and 15 associate members.

Four of the Ardmore Branch members have held state offices in AAUW: Mrs. G. W. Sparger, Mrs. Myrtle Enloe, Miss Muncy Rece, and Mrs. Florence Redfield Tillinghast provided that leadership to the state division of AAUW.

ATHENAEUM STUDY

The Athenaeum Study Club was organized in 1922 as the Athena-Delphian Club. The present name was made the official one after the group completed the Delphian course of study in 1931.

Motto of Athenaeum is "higher education, personal improvement and social progress," and programs are given to encourage thought along these lines and spiritual development.

Mrs. A. E. Ewell, a charter member, is still on the rolls. Membership is limited to 40 because meetings are held in members' homes.

The roster of presidents include Mmes. Ingram Henry, Hugh West, Ezra Dyer, Albert Riesen, Glen Cornell, Farris McCrory, Dougal A. McKellar, Tide Cox.

Harry C. Tate, H. B. Roberts, Orlie Coulter, Phillip Rawlins, V. A. Brissom, J. F. McCrory, H. C. Case, J. R. Lane, F. Kyle Duncan.

T. R. Landgraf, H. B. Wiles, Fred Butler, Dougal A. McKellar, H. E. Pierce, Sam McDaniel, R. P. Ruble, Carl Horn.

V. A. Grissom, Earl Brown, C. N. Lindahl, Harley Brown, George Hann, John Snodgrass, O. L. Putman and Emmett I. Broughton.

DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB

The Dogwood Garden Club was organized and federated in 1953 with this aim: "To make more beautiful our surroundings and stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening."

They have been active in such projects as highway beautification, the Council flower show, tours of eastern Oklahoma, the organization of a junior garden club and garden therapy—a project whereby the uplifting effects of gardening are provided to shut-ins—even though the "garden" may be in a flower pot or the view from a window.

Charter members of this club in which each member is supposed to plant a dogwood tree included Mmes. Curtis Cathey, Ted Vernon, W. R. Mote, J. R. Hill, Guy Turner.

Mmes. C. H. Vineyard, Lutin Stinson, Joe Shinn, E. N. Horton, and C. B. Ball.

The 1957 officers of The Dogwood Garden Club are Mmes. W. R. Mote, president; Curtis Cathey, vice-president; C. B. Goldston, secretary; Clayton Cude, treasurer; Leonard Jones, parliamentarian and Hugh McIntire, historian.

GEOLOGISTS' WIVES

The Ardmore Geologists' Wives Society was organized in May of 1950 for the threefold purposes of promoting friendship, providing entertainment and assisting the Ardmore Geological Society upon request.

The Geologists' Wives Club has approximately 100 members and holds one afternoon and one evening meeting a month.

In addition to these monthly meetings, the group sponsors two dances a year to which husbands and guests are invited.

RYONIS CLUB

In May, 1921, John Easley suggested the idea of a women's civic club in Ardmore and called a group of women together for luncheon at the Ardmore Pharmacy to discuss this possibility. The club that resulted from this meeting 36 years ago took the name of "Ryonis," which is made up from the last two letters of Rotary, Lion and Kiwanis, although the membership of the club is not necessarily made up of the wives of families of members of Rotary, Lions or Kiwanis.

Charter members of the new club include Mrs. John Whiteman, Mrs. John Easley, Mrs. Arthur Walcott, Mrs. Charles Von Weise, Mrs. W. R. Burnitt, Mrs. Julius Kahn, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Anderson, Miss Marjorie Williams and Miss Daisy Nichols.

Mrs. Whiteman was the first president and Mrs. George P. Selvidge, one of the early members, was chairman of a committee assigned to draw up the constitution and by-laws. Mrs. Walcott became the second president.

The secretary of the YWCA and the wives of local ministers were invited to become members without the payment of dues.

Sister clubs of Ryonis were established at Haldton and Wilson.

Ryonis was instrumental in the organization of Ardmore's "Clean-up Dress-up" campaign in the 30's and has been responsible for flower and shrub beautification projects throughout the city.

Hundreds of deserving girls have gotten a better chance in life through the Ryonis educational loan fund. Girls receiving benefits from this loan fund have been of every religion. They have become teachers, nurses, secretaries, housewives and club women.

Money for the loan fund has come largely from fund raising projects of Ryonis instead of donations, for the women of Ryonis just naturally seem to like to work.

LEAFLET STUDY CLUB

The Leaflet Study Club was organized and federated February 5, 1933 by Mrs. T. G. Gibson and Mrs. Engram Henry.

To promote the study and interest of literature among young high school girls was the purpose in organizing such a club.

Sponsors, who are members of the mother club, Ladies of the Leaf, are Mmes., T. G. Gibson, Ingram Henry, Walter Neustadt, Sr., Earl Q. Gray, J. C. King, A. E. Plume, T. G. Johnson, James L. Dolman, and McMillian Lambert.

Those who have served as president are Misses Catherine Collier, Betty Jane Galt, Elfreda Woods, Ruby Porter, Virginia Horn, Fritzzi Sullivan, Jean Poin-dexter, Carol Risser, Jane Cashman, Ann McDaniel, Patricia Biddick.

Mynan Kilburn, Carol Clough, Helen Herber, Ann Clark, Margaret Sullivan, Jo Clough, Martha Lacy, Sherry Griffin, Mary Bulard, Ann Goins, Virginia Gilbert, Barbara Massad, Anne Johnson, Patricia Flood, and Jan Goins.

ARDMORE B&PW

The Ardmore unit of the Business and Professional Women's Club was organized in 1947 with 17 charter members and has continuously interested itself in many projects devoted to advancing the community good.

Officers presently serving are Mary Williams, president; Doris Jennison, vice president; Grace Cheuvront, recording secretary; Van Noy Hughes, corresponding secretary, and Bernice Dunaway, treasurer.

Among those who have served as president of the Ardmore B&PW are Veyra Oertel, Minnie Cheek, Maxine Bryan, Bonnie Garrett, Ruth Young, Florence Gregory, Christine Hammer, Adele Ebeling and Irene Woods.



B&PW MEMBERS IN 1957



HEALDTON STUDY CLUB, 1940

HEALDTON STUDY CLUB

"If you have knowledge, let others light their candle by it." That is the motto of the Healdton Study Club, and it has lived up to that motto since its inception in 1937 by bringing many famous and learned speakers and performers to Healdton for the community to enjoy.

Mrs. Price Samples called the first meeting to consider organization of the club, and it was sponsored in the federation by Mrs. Sample's mother, Mrs. Alta Heacock of Waurika and Mrs. T. G. Gibson of Ardmore.

Mrs. Samples was the first president. Other first officers included Mrs. Larry Eakin, vice president; Mrs. Merrill High, secretary; Mrs. Fred Perry, treasurer; Mrs. Frank Jordon, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. H. C. Gullledge, parliamentarian.

A special committee named to select the club's name, motto, flower and color was composed of Mmes. Nat Coulter, Fred Perry and Harold Wasson.

Projects for the past few years have included a child guidance clinic, Girls' State, Girl Scouts and the March of Dimes.

Now serving as officers are Mrs. Joe Murphy, president; Mrs. Don Morrison, vice president; Mrs. John Cornish Jr., secretary; Mrs. Dan Boone, treasurer; Mrs. Earl Nelson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Bill Sutherland, historian, and Mrs. Kenneth Martin, critic.

The club was honored in 1957 by having two state chairmen—Mrs. Herman Hitchcock, community affairs, and Mrs. Nat Coulter, literature and drama.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The auxiliary to George R. Anderson Post No. 65 of the American Legion got its start in January, 1921, when 75 women signed a petition seeking the organization.

Eight of the 75 are still active. They are Mmes. H. B. Fell, Walter Johnson, P. O. South, Leo B. Atkins, Ada Pearce and Bessie Bradway.

Another long-active member is Miss Eloda Gibson. She was officially appointed to write the auxiliary's history in 1928—kept up with it on her own through 1949, and furnished the information for this story.

Mrs. Caroline Davidson was chosen the organization's first president.

One of the auxiliary's first projects was a successful carnival that made it possible for them to give the

post \$1,800. Part of this money went to purchase colors and flags and to provide Gold Star badges for the mother of Lt. George R. Anderson and for Mrs. Ada D. Pearce and Mrs. Byron Drew. Mrs. Pearce was elected president of the state organization and has since held many state and national offices.

An early duty was assisting with the burying of the remains of George Anderson and Buster Cutts. Then attention was directed toward living veterans and families of veterans, living and dead.

Poppies were sold each year. Every conceivable kind of fund-raising activity was engaged in. Veterans' hospitals and the Legion Home School at Ponca City received many benefits. Sometimes it was only a jar of homemade jelly or just a friendly word—often it was more. This activity has continued through the years and its value has been proven over and over in benefits both tangible and intangible.

Things weren't too rosy on the economic scene in 1931, but 3,000 poppies were sold and many needy families were helped.

Then came another war. War Bonds, Blood Drives, USO and Civil Defense entered the picture.

In 1948 there were three Gold Star mothers from World War I—and 44 from the next great war. There were Defense Bonds to be sold. Chest x-rays were being promoted in the interest of the public health, a necessary ingredient of civil defense.

Women who have served as president of the auxiliary include Mmes. Carolyn Davidson, Mark Kirkpatrick, R. S. Ryburn, P. B. Jeffries, Walter Johnson, Robert P. Short, C. A. Whitehurst, R. W. Bullock, Ben G. Hunter, Maggie Mae Johnson, Arthur Oakley, Patrick R. Kegan, Marvin Frankline, O. E. Eggleston, John Bunch, A. J. Powers, Roy McAllister, J. L. Spearman.

W. A. Kincade, W. T. Roberts, Penk Shuman, Allen Evans, Floyd Randolph, B. W. Wilson, J. M. Walker, Howard Johnson, Johnnie Minzee, L. L. Tarver, Floyd Loughbridge, Cecil Harvey, Mary Crowe and Howard Musgrove.

THE CIVIC CHORUS

The Civic Chorus was started in 1944 by Mrs. Meredith "Gerry" Rawlins and Mrs. Sam "Dollie" Talkington as a group of singers assembled to entertain the state convention of the Lions Club at Ardmore. The chorus was so well received that the members decided to continue singing together and organized as the Ardmore Civic Chorus under the sponsorship of the Lions Club.

The chorus combined with the community band to present most of its programs which, at first, used no staging but gradually developed into costumed productions with elaborate backdrops and props.

Mrs. Meredith Rawlins directed the chorus for the first seven years followed by one year with Drexel Mollison and two years with Mrs. William Hagen as director.

Accompanist for the chorus during the entire past ten years has been Mrs. Sam Talkington. The chorus has not been active for 1956-57 season but there is hope that a reorganized chorus will be developed by the fall of 1957.

BRIDE-A-WEE CLUB

The Bide-a-wee Club was given much thought and carefully planned to meet the desires and needs of a congenial group of young married women whose aims and aspirations were identical: namely, to be better wives and mothers. They felt that to do this they should broaden their horizons on a number of things, particularly those things pertaining to child care, recreation, self improvement and worthy use of leisure time.

Mrs. Charles Manley called together a group of friends on February 3, 1954 and presented the idea of forming a club so that by working together as a group they could accomplish more and at the same time benefit by closer friendships.

The name "Bide-a-wee" was suggested by Mrs. Manley and was unanimously adopted by other members. Translated it means "Stay a little while." The Irish lilt of it proclaimed a pleasant visit or a happy time and the whimsical Scotch accent gave a hint of "no extravagances, please"—just the things the group desired in their club.

The charter members were Mrs. Jack Sloan, Mrs. George Marley, Mrs. W. F. Gulsvig, Mrs. Warren Wood, Mrs. James Suggs, Mrs. Willard Morton, Mrs. James Hooven.

Mrs. W. E. Jensen, Mrs. Arman France, Mrs. Charles Manley, Mrs. Sam Clendenin Jr., Mrs. Ray Cox, Mrs. James Fine, and Mrs. Charles White.

The first club officers were Mrs. Charles Manley, president; Mrs. Arman France, vice-president; Mrs. Jack Sloan, secretary and Mrs. George Marley, reporter.

The present members include Mrs. Joe Lasley, Mrs. Hurmon Anthony, Mrs. Sam Clendenin Jr., Mrs. Jimmy Fine, Mrs. Cecil M. Harvey, Mrs. Stanley Ilinski, Mrs. Hershah Jones, Mrs. George Marley, Mrs. Willard Morton, Mrs. Glenn Owens, Mrs. James Sollers, Mrs. Warren Wood, Mrs. Jim O'Connor, and Mrs. Charles Manley.

CHICKASAW CHAPTER 299, UDC

The Chickasaw Chapter No. 299 United Daughters Of The Confederacy, was organized at Ardmore, April 26, 1899 with the following members:

Mrs. John T. Alexander, Mrs. E. A. Gollledge, Miss Minnie Wood, Miss Beulah Cobb, Miss Myrtle Cobb, Miss Lizzie Cobb.

Miss Mattie Pulliam, Miss Zelma Nolan, Miss Laura Nolan, Mrs. Mary V. Dicherman Stowe, Mrs. Elizabeth Chastain, Mrs. Dora Russell Nesbit.

Mrs. Ben W. Carter, Mrs. Blanche Garrett, Mrs. Adele Whiteman, Mrs. Maggie B. Foster, Mrs. Susie Worthy, Mrs. Roselle Grimm.

Mrs. Ora M. Galt, Mrs. Fannie Strange Byles, Miss Fannie Law, Miss Mattie Youngblood, Mrs. Lula Laughlin Morgan.

Mrs. Mattie Vineyard Pulliam, Mrs. P. A. Laughlin, Mrs. Mary Jane Crawford, Mrs. Charlie D. Carter, Mrs. Geo. H. Bruce, Mrs. Pearl Torbett.

This chapter is a unit of the State Division and the National United Daughters of the Confederacy. The objects of the U.D.C. are historical, benevolent, educational and social—to honor the memory of those who served and those who fell in the service of the Confederate States; to protect, preserve, and mark places made historic by Confederate valor; to collect and preserve

the material for a truthful history of the War Between the States; to record the part taken by Southern women and their patient endurance of hardship and patriotic devotion during the struggle.

The Chickasaw Chapter placed a shelf for southern books in the Carnegie Library and marked the Confederate graves in Rose Hill with a replica of the Southern Cross of Honor, that was given to each Confederate Soldier by the U.D.C. When the Confederate Home was built in 1910, the chapter members were always ready to help in any way.

After all the soldiers and their widows had passed on, the state enlarged the buildings and it is now known as the Oklahoma Veterans Home.

One member of the chapter, Mrs. Lutie Hailey Walcott, has served the chapter as president, secretary, and registrar, the Oklahoma Division as president, corresponding secretary, recording secretary and registrar, the general U.D.C. As corresponding secretary, recording secretary, and was elected honorary president for life.

Mrs. M. L. Cochran also served the Oklahoma Division as registrar.

There are now seventeen members, nine of whom are Real Daughters—those who became members on their father's war record.

Officers serving at the present time are as follows: Mrs. Grover C. Conley, president; Mrs. Thomas Carter, vice-president; Mrs. Litsey Smith, recording secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Harley Layman, historian; Mrs. M. L. Cochran, parliamentarian; Mrs. Lutie H. Walcott, registrar; Mrs. Eugene Woerz, press reporter.

ARNO ART CLUB

"For the pleasure of associating with others of kindred minds and to help foster the spirit of art in our community," was the stated purpose of that enthusiastic band of art lovers who in December, 1925 organized the Ardmore Art League, now known as the Arno Art Club.

Their monthly meetings were at Hotel Ardmore, and the first yearbook of 1925-26 discloses the following staff of officers: Mrs. Ozella Pugh Echols, president; Mrs. Leslie Woods McCollom, first vice president; Miss Jennie Smith, second vice president; Mrs. Ingram Henry, recording secretary and treasurer; Mrs. O. L. Hamm, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Lewis Davidson, press reporter.

There was an executive board and committees composed of the aforementioned officers and Mrs. Fay Burnit Baker, Mrs. Walter Young, Mrs. Vern Thornton, Miss Willie Hooks, Miss Clara Morgan, Mrs. Tom Cathey, Mrs. W. S. Smith, Mrs. R. A. Hefner.

Mrs. Tom Cooper, Mrs. Walter Foster, Mrs. M. A. Hepler, Mrs. Bliss Whittington, Mrs. Faye Shores, Mrs. J. W. Newcomb, Mrs. Helen Sullivan and Miss Lavodis Lykins. There doubtless were others in this organization but a roster of membership was not kept.

They became a federated club in 1926 with a greatly increased membership, active, associate and patron. Among the patron members appear the names of Mrs. T. A. Thurmond, Mrs. Charles F. Adams, Mr. Perry D. Maxwell, Dr. and Mrs. F. P. Von Keller, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tucker, Mrs. J. C. Thompson, Mrs. L. H. Love, Mrs. H. A. Stanley, Mrs. F. W. Merrick, Mrs. Charles E.

Farhney, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Chapman, and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Johnson.

Miss Helen Ward holds the record of the longest continuous active membership, from 1927 to the present, and has always been an ardent patron of the arts.

A review of the records of the club suggests that every worthwhile movement in Ardmore—civic, cultural, philanthropic,—had the club's endorsement; and through the years it brought to Ardmore many splendid attractions, all open to the public. Among them in October, 1926 was an exhibition from the American Federation of Art. This exhibition of twenty-five paintings hung on the mezzanine floor of Hotel Ardmore for ten days.

In 1927 Mrs. Lindley Tonkin, a talented painter, etcher and lithographer from McAlester lectured to the club. Her collection of etchings and allied prints were described "as perhaps the most valuable single (privately owned) collection in the south."

The Findley Art Galleries of Oklahoma City exhibited at the Hotel Ardmore in 1927. In 1929, Nan Sheets, Oklahoma's best known artist, exhibited her paintings and lectured, and in 1930 Nellie Vern Walker, noted sculptress from Chicago, was the club's contribution to culture.

In 1931 the name of the club was changed to Arno Art.

The club used four large and splendid tomes, known as the "Arno Art Books," as the basis of its study of ancient and modern art. This study has been followed by Helen Gardner's "Art Thro' the Ages," Gambrich's "Story of Art" and the present study of various countries' paintings, sculpture and architecture through memorial film strips and slides.

More recently, the Arno Art Club has sponsored Doel Reed, then of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College; Guy Wiggins, New York artist; Arthur J. Merrill, Chicago artist; Ivan Johnson, then of Dallas, now of the University of Florida, and Joe Taylor, Professor of Sculpture at the University of Oklahoma, the latter displaying his sculptures, both classic and modern, of wood, clay, stone and iron.

Miss Minnie Baker, now heading the Art Department of Southeastern State College, Durant, both has sponsored and been sponsored by the club. Her paintings were exhibited many times at Arno Art teas, and she in turn was one of the early presidents of the Art League, helping materially in its development, and more recently has lectured to the club. Richard Gentz, Oklahoma City artist, appeared as a lecturer with his paintings and also exhibited at the May festival.

As a "garnish" to the foregoing exhibits and lectures were the ladies of the club in their long dresses serving innumerable cups of hot tea and dainty, intricately cut and decorated little cakes.

The club now has an active membership of twenty, and about an equal number of associate and patron members. It meets twice monthly and its officers are elected annually. Its two main purposes, in addition to self culture, are the Johnnie Dixon scholarship award of \$100 to the most talented art student graduating from Ardmore High School and the May Festival of Art held in Central Park and Lake Murray Lodge.

This festival is open to all phases of art, and the club has welcomed to it both amateur and professional artists from all quarters of the state.

Two figures stand out, perhaps the most prominently, in the records of Arno Art and in the memories of its members.

To Mrs. Fay Burnit Baker, painter and art teacher, is given the greatest credit for the establishment of the May Art Festival, first held in 1952. It was through her leadership and great love of art that she envisioned the possibility of this project that has become a yearly event.

To the enthusiasm of Mrs. Leslie Woods McCollum is attributed the popularity of the Johnnie Dixon award. A scholarship was established early in the club's history at the suggestion of Mrs. McCollum, but in 1946 at her request it was named to honor Johnnie Dixon, a very talented Ardmore boy who lost his life in World War II, and of whom it was said by an eminent art critic that "he one day would bring fame to himself and Oklahoma."

So—to the members of Arno Art—the May Art Festival, and the awarding of the Johnnie Dixon Scholarship are in the nature of an annual memorial to these two former presidents.

Through the years the following have served as presidents, some more than one year: Mrs. Ozella Pugh Echels, Mrs. O. L. Hamm, Miss Jennie Smith, Miss Minnie Baker, Harry Moorhead, Leslie Woods McCollum, Louis A. Fischl, Mable Ocker, Earl Brown, Fred Carr, Arthur Oakley, Mort Woods, Ralph Wall, Ralph Ramsey, Frank Head, Frank Wahlgren, C. A. Johnson, Miss Lavinia Woods and Robert O. Smith.

ARDMORE YMCA

The Young Men's Christian Association was first incorporated in Ardmore in 1945 with Lloyd Noble as its president, but plans to build a building were postponed.

In 1951, the Junior Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee headed by W. J. Williams and Doug Dillard to investigate the possibilities of beginning an active YMCA program and a mass meeting of interested persons was held at the First Methodist Church.

The first membership drive brought in \$3,000, making it possible to bring a professional "Y" worker to Ardmore.

Robert Bryan was employed as general secretary of the Ardmore YMCA in 1952 and served for more than three years. He was followed by Tolly L. Baker in 1956. A successful summer camp program for 245 boys was



A LESSON IN NATURE

carried out at Lake Murray and a new field for junior baseball was built east of Cardinal Field.

W. J. Williams was the first president of the board of directors. Other board members included Wilson Wallace, Waco F. Turner, McMillan Lambert, Judge Thomas Norman, Curtis Hicks, James Thompson, John F. Sullivan, T. R. Frensey, D. F. Oveturf, Louie Bastin, Ward Merrick Jr., George D. Hann, Roy Troutt, Elbert King, Jean Neustadt, Leon Daube, R. G. Colbert, Guy Harris, John F. Easley and E. Dunlap Jr.

The YMCA receives support from the United Fund.

With a program designed to help men and boys to grow in spirit, mind and body, the organization has each year served a growing number of groups and individuals.

In 1953, there were 1,329 men and boys participating in "Y" activities. In 1956, there were 1,468 members taking part in 808 different program sessions. Roy Troutt served as the second president and was followed by Jim Bramlett and J. Elbert King.

The present board of directors is composed of John P. Harrell, president; Earl Perkins, Louie Bastin, Ed Bulard, Roy Troutt, W. J. Williams, Marvin Yeager, Fred Collins, Bryan Jared, Elbert King, Bob Downing, Charles Van Eaton, Dick Colvert, Don Cummings, Roger Gray and H. J. Sollars.

In January, 1955, the Ardmore YMCA headquarters were established at 8½ A Street, N.W.



COMPETITION BUILDS MEN



THIS GROUP OF 8-YEAR-OLDS WON ITS DIVISION BASEBALL TITLE IN 1956

ARDMORE ROTARY CLUB

The Ardmore Rotary Club was organized in 1917 by Earl Q. Gray, Joe W. Krueger, C. E. Ringer and H. G. Spaulding and is said to be the first civic club in Ardmore.

The official installation ceremony occurred May 8, 1917, at the Dornick Hills Country Club. The charter from Rotary International is Number 313 and was issued on June 17, 1917.

The charter members of this club were: Rev. J. W. Burns, John R. Dexter, Paul C. Eker, N. B. Feagin, Frank S. Gates, Earl Q. Gray, Roy M. Johnson, J. W. Krueger, Dr. Robert E. Keith, Mark Kirkpatrick, M. G. Reid, Charles W. Richards, C. E. Ringer, Helim G. Spaulding and Charles Von Weise. Helim G. Spaulding was the first president.

Three Rotary District Conferences have been held in Ardmore; the first in 1923, the second in 1939, and the third in 1954. Two members of the Ardmore Rotary Club have been Rotary District Governors; John R. Dexter in 1925-26, and Earl Q. Gray in 1953-54.

A Scout troop for under-privileged boys was one of the early club projects. Rural acquaintance and farmer guest meetings were held for several years during the Carter County Fair. Rotarian John F. Easley was responsible for the organization of the Ardmore Ryonis Club at a meeting held on May 2, 1921.

An annual crippled children's clinic in Carter County has been sponsored by the Ardmore Rotary Club in cooperation with local doctors since 1924. Rotarians Allen Deshong and Charles Von Weise were active in the development of this project, which later became a statewide project and was called the Oklahoma Crippled Children's Society. All Ardmore Rotarians are annual members of this organization and some are life members.

Junior Rotarians have been selected by the Ardmore Rotary Club since 1933. Outstanding high schools boys are invited to attend Rotary Club meetings for one

month. Nine boys are selected each year. Several members of the Ardmore Rotary Club were Junior Rotarians when they were students in the Ardmore High School.

Wives of Rotarians have been called "Rotary Anns" since 1918. This name originated in the Ardmore Rotary Club. Ann Thompson* was an accomplished pianist and played for Club singing at that time. She composed a song that she sang at a Rotary District Conference in Oklahoma City which ended with the suggestion, "Although I cannot be a Rotarian, I could be Rotary Ann." At a later date, the Oklahoma City Club invited the Ardmore Rotary Club to a special meeting and the invitation read, "Bring Rotary Ann." Rotary Ann Clubs have been organized in many cities.

Two or more high school boys have been sent to Boys State each year by the Ardmore Rotary Club since this project was started in 1943. The meeting lasts one week and is held at the University of Oklahoma.

The objective of the program is to learn more about local and state government. George Hann, a member of the Ardmore Rotary Club since 1938, was active in the development of this program in Oklahoma, and proposed that eligibility for participation be limited to junior boys. This change, which has been accepted on a national basis, greatly increased the value of this program, because junior students who attend Boys State have an opportunity to use information obtained at this conference during their senior year in high school.

During the past six years, the Ardmore Rotary Club has paid the expenses of two high school boys to Oklahoma City for three days to participate in a youth and government program at the State Capitol. This program is sponsored by the YMCA.

Rotary Park, located at Fifth and L Streets, SW in Ardmore, was improved and provided with playground equipment in 1950. A summer playground program was sponsored for several years by the Ardmore



ARDMORE ROTARY CLUB BAND A FEW YEARS AGO

Rotary Club prior to 1952 when the YMCA assumed the responsibility for this program.

Rotary Foundation Fellowships, for advanced study in another country, were made available on a competitive basis for college and university graduates in 1953-54. The objective of this program was to establish more friendly relations between different nations. William R. Martin of Ardmore was recommended by the Ardmore Rotary Club in 1956-57 and was awarded a Rotary Foundation Fellowship for advanced study in a European university in 1957-58. Every member of the Ardmore Rotary Club makes an annual contribution to this Foundation.

During the past two years, the Ardmore Rotary Club has provided funds to send one ton of food each year to needy persons in other countries.

Community safety is emphasized by cooperating with local police officers in checking automobiles for mechanical defects. This assistance will be provided during safe driving week in May, 1957.

The Ardmore Rotary Club has 23 committees. Twelve committees are active in club service projects. Five committees work in the area of community service. Four committees help with problems of vocational service and two committees have projects on international service. "Service above self," and "He profits most who serves best," are two important guiding principles in Rotary.

CREDIT WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

The Credit Women's Breakfast Club of Ardmore was organized September 14, 1952. It is a chapter of an international organization composed of women engaged in all phases of credit work and affiliated with the National Retail Credit Association.

During the five years the club has been organized it has offered, each month, two educational programs based on lessons from a study manual published by the national office. The object of the club is to promote mutual understanding, cultivate friendly relationship, and foster the solidarity of women who are actively engaged in the credit profession and to maintain a harmonious relationship between credit departments of the various firms represented and the local Credit Bureau. Also to foster the aims and ideals of the National Retail Credit Association and to stimulate education in the practice and procedure of credits.

The club has sponsored for the public such programs as the Retail Credit School, presented by Sterling S. Speake from the University of Texas, the W. H. Butterfield Letter Writing Clinic and a Retail Credit School conducted by Robert E. Brenton of Oklahoma University.

In May of 1954 a monthly advertising campaign was begun to run a period of two years. One ad using the theme "Buy Wisely—Pay Promptly," was published in the local paper each month.

In August 1953 the club was host to the Pre-State meeting of the Oklahoma Credit Women's Breakfast Clubs, the Oklahoma Retail Credit Association and the Associated Credit Bureaus of Oklahoma. Several members have served on state and district committees and one member has been secretary and second vice-president of the state organization. The membership now consists of 26 members—ten of whom are charter members.

GREAT BOOK STUDY CLUB

The Great Books Study Club of Ardmore was organized in the fall of 1947 with J. S. Mullen being the prime mover of the organization.

Mullen was the first and only president of the group, being elected unanimously year after year. Miss Esther McRuer, then city librarian, was the first secretary-treasurer and served for several years until she moved away from Ardmore.

William F. Morse, present librarian, then took over the post and continued in his position until the club disbanded in the fall of 1955.

There were two reasons for termination of the organization. One was that it had exhausted the subjects offered by the Great Books Foundation for discussion and the other was that over-crowded conditions of the Library precluded meeting there.

Among the charter and other members of the group were Mrs. Tide Cox, Miller Verner, Mrs. John Judd, Judge and Mrs. John C. Caldwell, Judge and Mrs. Thomas Norman, Richard Vernon, Mrs. Margo Smyer, Mrs. Julia Sparger, Mr. and Mrs. E. Howell Williams, Senator and Mrs. Joe B. Thompson, Raymond Colvert, Miss Lavinia Wood, Mrs. Hannah Parker, Mrs. Fred Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sinton, Miss Leta Henry, Miss Virginia Rawlins, Miss Ona Philbrook, Miss Daisy Nichols, Mrs. Arthur Rose, Mrs. Carl Duckworth, Miss Esther Jones and Mrs. Betty Gamble Shell.

HEALDTON IOOF

Healdton Lodge, International Order of Odd Fellows number 491, was instituted September 9, 1916 by Grand Master Elijah E. Norvell with the following charter members: Dr. S. J. T. Hines, Past Grand; Walter H. Burr, August Q. Dickson, E. Johnson, W. P. New, R. S. Sims, W. J. Stafford, L. C. Stark, and J. W. Thomas.

The first officers were as follows: Noble Grand, E. Johnson; Vice Grand, J. W. Thomas; Secretary, August Q. Dickson and Treasurer, Dr. S. J. T. Hines.

The only charter member still living is A. Langley. Claude C. Clements came into the lodge five days after it was instituted and is still a member. There are now 130 members and the rolls are still growing. Ed Rogers is the present Noble Grand of Healdton IOOF No. 491.

PANSY GARDEN CLUB

The Pansy Garden Club of Ardmore believes that flowers, shrubs and trees play an important part in the things that combine to make life pleasant.

Pansy Garden Club has organized a junior group called the Pansyettes with Mrs. O. L. Nelson as their advisor.

The Pansy Garden Club was organized and federated in 1952 with Mrs. A. R. Brown as its first president. Others who have served as president of the club include Mrs. Floyd Tempero, Mrs. J. D. Richards and Mrs. Russell Barringer.



GRAY LADY CLASS OF RED CROSS IN 1955

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Most of the activities of the Red Cross are well-known to the public, but perhaps the details of the administration of local chapters are not so widely known.

The Carter County chapter received its charter in 1917. Its affairs are controlled by a board of directors who are elected for a three-year period, but a system of rotation assures that one-third of the directors are changed each year. Any director who has served for two consecutive terms is not eligible to serve again until 12 months have elapsed.

Present officers of the Carter County chapter are

Earle E. Garrison, chapter chairman; T. Fred Collins, vice chairman; John Hendricks, treasurer, and Mrs. William J. Cashman, secretary. These officers are members of the board of directors.

Other board members are Carl Buck of Fox; Homer J. Leslie and Shade Young of Wilson; Rev. and Mrs. Frank Sears of Healdton; Mrs. Tom Ezell of Dillard; Mrs. Patsy Telford of Gene Autry and Melvin Sampley of Springer. Directors who live in Ardmore are Joe Shinn, Earl Brown, Mrs. A. J. Swartz, John Hendricks, Mrs. William J. Cashman, Mrs. Leon Daube, Mrs. Ernest E. Dirks, Hardy Murphy.



HOME NURSING CLASS

Bob Downing, Mrs. John Adair, Rev. Edwin A. Morton, Mrs. Paul Sutton, Joe Culp, Frank Wahlgren, Mrs. O. V. Ragsdale, Marvin Yeager, Dale Trotter, Harley Venters, Mrs. Mentha Varner, T. Fred Collins, Mrs. J. C. Crews, Mrs. Dan Ryan and Earle E. Garrison.

Activity chairmen are Mrs. John Adair, service group; Mrs. W. E. Cruce, Gray Ladies; Mrs. J. P. Hivic, staff aid; Mrs. T. Cox, canteen; Mrs. Robert Henry, nurse's aid; Joe Shinn and Mrs. Leon Daube, home service; A. P. Shuman and C. P. Sebastian, disaster preparedness and relief; Mrs. Betty Tarver, disaster nursing service; Mrs. James T. Godfrey, home nursing; S. L. Wallace and G. W. Norton, first aid; Buell Awtrey, water safety; T. M. Crisp and Mrs. Mentha Varner, Negro water safety, and Ethel Rockett, publicity.

Mrs. Nelle M. Stayton, executive secretary, and Mrs. Marie Luton, home service secretary, comprise the office staff.

Among those who have served as chapter chairman are Mrs. Margaret Squires, the first chairman; T. B. Orr, Earl Brown, Louis Fischl, Joe Brown, Robert Batis, Joe Culp, Mrs. J. C. Crews, Frank Wahlgren, Dale Trotter, T. Fred Collins, Mrs. Lela Godwin, Mrs. Alice Faye Lofton and Buell Awtrey.

Membership is open to all persons within the chapter's district upon payment of annual dues of \$1.

The Red Cross spent \$32,000 to aid victims of the Ardmore tornado of 1946. The largest amount ever raised for Carter County Red Cross was in 1944 when Joe Shinn was chairman of the drive—\$42,000.



FOX OFFICERS—These men and women directed the fund drive in 1957 at Fox. Standing, left to right, are Merle Watson, Jess Phipps and Carl Buck. Seated are Mrs. M. Dunman, left, and Mrs. Jack Mefford.



WORKING FOR FUNDS IN 1957 HEALDTON DRIVE



YWCA HEADQUARTERS

ARDMORE YWCA

The Ardmore Young Women's Christian Association began as a spark in the imaginations of two young women, Misses Daisy Nichols and Margaret Lawson—a spark which caught the interest of other women and culminated in the formation of the organization in 1921 and the dedication of the present beautiful building in 1939.

Five citizens formed the first board of trustees: Arthur Kyle, Fred Carr, Mrs. Morris Sass, Olin Wolverton and Mrs. Eva Noble.

A 17-member board of directors was elected: Mrs. Lamont Byers, Mrs. Noah Cisco, Mary Boone, Myrtle Moore, Mrs. R. A. Hefner, Daisy Nichols, Margaret Lawson, Mrs. Ed Sandlin.

Lavinia Woods (Adams), Lillian Bishop, Mrs. A. B. Seay, Mrs. Howard Cox, Mrs. Arthur Straehley, Mrs. Walter Young, Mrs. J. B. Wall, Mrs. J. C. Thompson and Mrs. Roy M. Johnson.

Miss Creola Ford was the first general secretary, and Birdie Dulaney (McCharen) the office assistant.

By November, 1921, the first lunch club, a much-needed project for the girls who worked downtown, had been organized. From this group of girls grew the YWCA organization known as the Young Women's Council, later to become the Business and Professional Women's Club. The luncheon club started with 30 girls who bought six lunches a week for \$1.50.

Clubs for girls known as Girl Reserves grew rapidly

in 1922. In 1946, the name of the girls' work in the national YWCA was changed to "Y-Teen."

While major interest has always been on teen-age girls, the need of younger groups led to the creation of six Blue Triangle clubs for fifth and sixth grade girls.

In 1952, when other organizations were helping meet the needs of girls of the elementary school age, the Ardmore YWCA re-evaluated its services and again served only girls from the seventh through the 12th grades. There is now an active Y-Teen club for every junior and senior high school grade level.

An important milestone on the road toward a new building was reached when Mrs. Eva Noble left in trust \$20,000 to be paid to the YWCA at such time as the organization could secure subscriptions of enough money to build a "Y" building adequate to the needs of Ardmore.

Among those who served on the finance, building and furnishing committees for the new building were Mmes. M. M. Wallis, Ethel Rockett, John Murphy, W. P. Burch, Marshall Wilson, Hal Cannon, Hattie Noble, Sam McDaniel, John Carlock, John Whiteman and Mr. John F. Easley.

There was an advisory board including Will Smith, T. E. Garrison, Ezra Dyer, Hugo Stromberg and Eugene Morter. Hugh McIntire had the building ready for occupancy on October 22, 1938.

The community service it has rendered is far greater than ever dreamed of by its planners. In 1956 alone, the

individuals served in YWCA sponsored groups numbered 13,247, groups using the buildings were 10,852, and those served in the cafeteria numbered 47,784, for a grand total of 71,883.

When the Ardmore Community Chest was reorganized in 1948 the YWCA became the first of the five participating agencies. The YWCA now receives the large part of its support from the United Fund, Inc., which succeeded the Chest in 1956, and includes 22 community agencies.

Program emphasis of the local YWCA has changed as the needs of the community have changed. During the war, the organization assisted with military and home needs in community defense, Red Cross and USO.

Much effort was put forth to assist Air Wives with problems which might arise so far from their homes. To assist the young people who were not in the military, double-date night was innovated by the general secretary, Miss Ruth Hanna. In January 1944, a youth activities director, Miss Pauline Anderson, was added to the staff to take over the direction of all teen-age work. The present Teen-Town is open on Saturday evenings to all junior high school students.

Summer camping for girls was started in the middle 20's at Oil Springs. In 1945 the Triangle Camp was founded at Organized Youth Camp Number One at Lake Murray State Park. In 1956 it was moved to the newly-leased Business and Professional Women's Club cabin at Cedarvale in the Arbuckle Mountains for a trial period of three one-week sessions. The 1957 camping sessions ran six weeks.

Education classes for adults were started immediately upon the formation of the YWCA in Ardmore. Classes in cooking and Bible study were organized. Popular was the gym class under the direction of Mildred Galt, now Mrs. Cecil Baber. In this class the fat ones were made thin and the thin ones fuller. Throughout its 35 years the classes of greatest interest to women of all ages have been continued: cooking, exercises and crafts. Language, with Spanish the most popular, world

affairs and travel have been offered as they were in popular demand.

Bridge classes have been of interest for many years. Many dreams have become realities through out-of-town plays, musicals and trips. Ambitions have been realized in tours to Carlsbad Caverns, a trip to Colorado, six spring tours of the Southern states, two tours of Mexico and two to New York City.

Approximately 800 adult and teen-age members are now enrolled.

Clubs for adults presently sponsored by the YWCA in addition to the original Business and Professional Women's Club are the Y's Y'ves and the Y-Dames. Through the years since the Double-Date night of the early 1940's, a "Younger Business Women's Club," a Batch and Maid Club, the Air Base Hostess group and a Young Married Couples group have served the young adults.

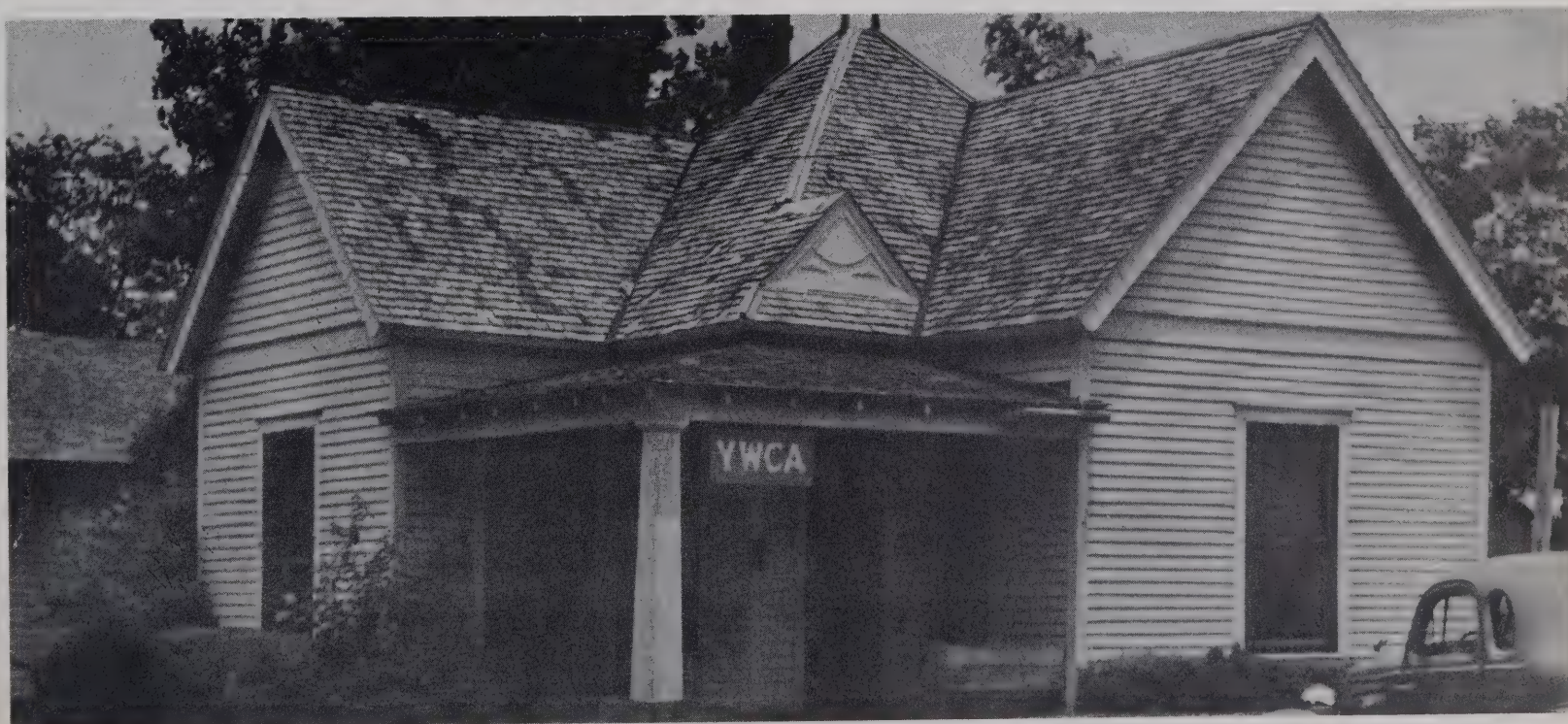
The luncheon club of the beginning days has become a modern cafeteria faithfully serving its original mission of good food at a minimum price. Designed to accommodate the business women of the community, it is open to anyone.

From 1921 to 1957 the following people have been elected by the board of directors to serve as president: Mmes. Lamont Byers, S. M. Davis, Ed Sandlin, T. A. Thurmond, R. L. Morgan, Hal Cannon, John Pollock, W. M. Wasson.

J. R. Pennington, George Selvidge, John Kincaid, E. O. Davis, Charles Yeakley, W. P. Burch Jr., Ethel Rockett, John Colvert, L. N. Cox, Roy Vines, Maynard White, T. G. Johnson, Harley Duncan, Dana Allen, J. I. Goins, C. N. Lindahl and Randall Spears.

The present paid staff includes the executive director, director of youth activities, bookkeeper, office secretary, cafeteria manager, with a staff of 11 members and a custodian.

To assist the paid staff and determine the program and policies of the Ardmore YWCA, there is a board of 21 directors, seven trustees, and two advisors.



YWCA BUILDING IN 1932

BETA SIGMA PHI

DELTA OMICRON CHAPTER

Delta Omicron Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, is a group restricted to a membership of married women.

The chapter was formed March 14, 1955 and has a membership of 26.

Chapter officers are Mrs. Jack Borjes, president; Mrs. Bill Morgan, vice president; Mrs. Gene Levell, recording secretary; Mrs. Rex Pickering, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Dave Dunford, treasurer and Mrs. Earl LaRoche, extension officer.

The chapter has as its main project the Sunbeam Girls of the Salvation Army. For these girls the group helps to purchase uniforms and gives parties throughout the year.

Fifteen of the members have completed the First Aid Course given by the Red Cross.

BETA RHO CHAPTER

Beta Rho Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority was organized in Ardmore July 22, 1946 with 30 members.

First officers of the non-academic organization were Miss Margaret Gillis, president; Miss Winnell Aubrey, vice-president; Miss Jean Clements, recording secretary; Miss Marjorie Butcher, corresponding secretary, and Miss Phyllis Shilling, treasurer. Mrs. Faye Shores was named director and Mrs. Nelle Stayton sponsor.

At present 24 members are on the roll of Beta Rho. Officers are Mrs. H. W. Day, president; Mrs. Bill Wykoff, vice-president; Miss Rachel Tillman, recording secretary; Miss Genevieve Whittaker, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Lillian Wallace, treasurer and Mrs. Bill Eason, extension officer.



BETA RHO AND DELTA OMICRON CHAPTERS, 1955

THE INSURANCE WOMEN

The Insurance Women of Ardmore, is composed of 22 members. The club was organized on April 15, 1955, and became affiliated with the National Association of Insurance Women in November, 1955.

The purpose of the National Association is to encourage and foster educational programs designed to broaden the knowledge of insurance of its members and to cultivate their friendship, loyalty and service.

The club encourages insurance women to better prepare themselves for filling their positions and to make them more responsive to the business requirements of their associates.

The educational work of the club is paramount.

The club has presented extensive educational programs and is now engaged in sponsoring for its members and their employers the Insurance Institute of America Course, which is the preparatory course to the C.P.C.U. (Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter) the highest degree that can be attained in the insurance field.

In addition to education, the club is actively engaged in promoting public safety, creating good public relations, aiding in welfare projects and employment, keeping abreast of insurance legislation and extending the benefits of the club through the activities of the membership committee.



PHI BETA ALUMNAE GATHERING

PHI BETA PHI ALUMNAE

The Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club of Ardmore was founded in 1917 by 10 young women.

Early members included Mrs. Gaylord (Hallette Fraley) Nelson, the first president; Mrs. George (Antoinette Cobb) Hollingsworth, Mrs. Ed (Allie Breeding) Galt, Mrs. Mort (Doris Probst) Woods, Mrs. W. H. (Ella Mae Hagan) Thompson, Mrs. Don (Beatrice Von Keller) Bretch; Nell Dashner, Mrs. Bern (Ginny Dyer) Alden, Mrs. Wilton (Florence Bristow) Phillips, and Mrs. Fred (Elise Potter) Chapman.

The club's first philanthropic project was to support the now famous Settlement School in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This school, the first of its kind anywhere in the world, was established in 1913 for the purpose of educating illiterate Tennessee mountaineers.

Since no public schools were available for these backward people at this time, the Pi Beta Phi national organization founded this school for them. Adults and children alike were taught not only scholastic subjects at the settlement school, but also were trained in the arts of spinning, weaving, metalwork and other skills which afforded the hill-people a talent with which to become independent and self-supporting.

The scant 1917 membership of ten women has since grown into the largest Greek alumnae club of its nature in Ardmore. Growing into a civic minded organization of 41 active members, Pi Beta Phi in Ardmore feels the importance of community service. A pioneer in early civic work, the club has supported many charity drives held during the past 37 years.

PIERIAN STUDY CLUB

The Pierian Study Club was organized in 1937 with Mrs. E. R. McCan as its first president and was federated in 1939.

Pieria was a region of ancient Macedonia in which there was a spring known as the Pierian Fountain sacred to the mythological Muses and believed to communicate poetic inspiration.

The club expresses its objectives as being "to promote the common interest, to further learning, to study the subjects of higher learning and to contribute toward greater social services in the community."

The club motto is "Drink deep or taste not the Pierian Spring."

In organizing this study club it was planned for the group to remain small enough that it could meet in the members' homes. There are now 18 members with Mrs. Elbert King as president.

The small club which has been active in social services through the years has as its theme for 1956-58—"Knowledge is power."

ALTRUSA

The Altrusa Club of Ardmore, the second such group to be formed in Oklahoma, was organized September 21, 1944 with 20 executive and professional women of the city as members.

The Sherman, Texas club acted as organizers for the new group. One of the first projects of the new club was to purchase the charter for the Girl Scouts on April 12, 1946. The organization sends a delegate to Girls' State each year.

The Altrusa Club started the Career Conference which has grown into a large and worth-while organization.

At the present time plans are being drawn for construction of a rest center for Ardmore and the community. The club has purchased a lot for the center site and has more than \$7,000 in a building fund.

A new project just initiated in 1957 is the honoring of "The Woman of the Year." The award is to go to those women who give much of their time, talent and service to the needs of the community.

During the year the organization carries out many community and charity projects.

Currently there are 22 members in the Ardmore Altrusa Club with Louise Ryburn president.

IRIS GARDEN CLUB

The Iris Garden Club was organized October 25, 1950 with these ten charter members: Mrs. Ralph Cason, Mrs. S. E. Grieder, Mrs. Ralph LeVan, Mrs. Katie Minzes, Mrs. J. S. Nolan, Mrs. C. B. Northcutt, Mrs. George Selvidge, Mrs. Marvin Shilling, Mrs. A. G. Woolverton and Mrs. Roger Whitfield.

The aim adopted by the club was: "To stimulate interest in and knowledge of different forms of gardening, particularly, improvement of home grounds and aid in development of civic beautification and to promote protection of native plants and birds."

The club flower is the iris; club colors are green and white and the club bird is the Scissortailed Flycatcher.

The club attended the first district meeting of garden clubs held at Lake Murray in 1952 and have attended all district meetings since that time. At the District Meeting in Seminole, the Iris president, Mrs. Ralph Cason, was elected district president.

The Iris Club cooperates with the Garden Council when the spring flower show is held each year.

The club has won 22 blue ribbons, and several second and third awards on flower arrangements and single entries. Also the "gold award" for winning more blue ribbons than any other club.

Individual members winning awards include Mrs. Ralph Cason, who won six blue ribbons and four red. She received the "sweepstakes" in 1955.

In 1953, a flower show school was held in Ardmore and Mrs. Ralph Cason, Mrs. Marvin Shilling and Mrs. J. W. Steele took the course on judging. One member has completed the five courses for flower show judging and is now qualified as a National Council Judge. She is Mrs. Ralph Cason.

Several club members have traveled in Europe, Hawaii and old Mexico. They brought back films and colored slides of gardens in these countries.

Garden Tours have been made by the Iris Club and

members try to make their own gardens a show place for visitors to see at all times.

Past Presidents are, Mrs. Ralph Cason, Mrs. C. B. Northcutt. Present Officers are: President, Mrs. A. G. Woolverton; Vice President, Mrs. Ralph Cason; Second Vice President, Mrs. W. L. Couch; Secretary, Mrs. J. E. Bartee; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Harry Wiles; Treasurer, Mrs. S. E. Grieder; Parliamentarian, Mrs. H. L. Harbour; Historian, Mrs. Frank Couch. The membership of the Iris Club consists of the following: Mrs. W. I. Akers, Mrs. J. E. Bartee, Mrs. J. D. Bowers, Mrs. Ralph Cason, Mrs. Frank Couch, Mrs. W. L. Couch, Mrs. S. E. Grieder, Mrs. H. L. Harbour, Mrs. Lela King, Mrs. Harry Jenkins, Mrs. M. J. Lancaster, Mrs. C. E. Merrill, Mrs. Ralph LeVan, Mrs. Arthur McCrory, Mrs. Katie Minzes, Mrs. C. B. Northcutt, Mrs. H. B. Phillips, Mrs. Marvin Shilling, Mrs. John Stoker, Mrs. Chas. Sutton, Mrs. Willis Tennyson, Mrs. V. R. Thomas, Mrs. Larry Wells, Mrs. Harry Wiles, Mrs. George Wilkes and Mrs. A. G. Woolverton.

THE WRITER'S CLUB

The Writer's Club of Ardmore was organized Sept. 21, 1944 and federated with the State and General Federation of Women's Clubs the same year.

The charter members were Mmes: C. C. Baird, Fay Burnitt Baker, R. G. Colvert, T. G. Gibson, Frank M. Head, J. R. Miller, Franklin Ocker, L. West, Walter Young and Fay Hamilton Shores. Also Misses Ruth Hannah and Grace Gobel.

The purpose of the club is to stimulate and encourage writing along all lines.

A creative writer's contest is sponsored each year in Ardmore High School. Prominent Oklahoma Writers have been presented to the public in open meetings from time to time.

All members have had articles, stories or poems published.

One member, Miss Florence Philbrook, had 2 books published. Mrs. S. B. Powell of Wilson, had a book of poems published.

Mrs. Arthur Carpenter has received numerous awards from the State Federation for her poetry. Mrs. Frank M. Head and Mrs. T. G. Gibson have poems in the First Anthology of Oklahoma. Mrs. L. West has had numerous stories published.

Mrs. B. V. Barr is serving as President to a membership of 12.

MUSIC CLUB

Music lovers in Ardmore were given an answer to their hopes on October 22, 1913 when 16 ladies met in the high school auditorium to form the Music Club.

From this club has grown the Philharmonic Club which was federated with the National Federation of Music Clubs in 1919.

Today the Philharmonic Club has 80 members and has as its objective the study of music as a means of intellectual and general improvement in the musical culture of the community.



IRIS GARDEN CLUB ON PICNIC



COLONIAL TEA—The DAR chapter had a gay time at the Colonial Tea Oct. 4, 1956. Left to right are Mrs. William Hutchinson, Mrs. Luther

Morter, Mrs. Harry Mayes, Mrs. H. E. Pierce, Mrs. Grover Conley, Mrs. Robert Smith, Mrs. Harley Layman, Mrs. Litsey Smith and Mrs. George Norris.

ARDMORE CHAPTER, DAR

The Ardmore Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized on May 21, 1921 by Mrs. Rutherford Brett, organizing regent.

Charter members included Mrs. John (Ida Elmore) Alexander, Mrs. Adam (Rebecca Brett) Alexander, Mrs. Rutherford (Lettie) Brett, Mrs. P. B. (Hallie Patton) Conlee, Mrs. J. L. (Vernie Winston) Cox, Mrs. H. L. (Nannie Fain) Crockett, Mrs. Willie Backwell Crittendon, Mrs. W. L. (Margaret Griffin) Dilworth, Mrs. Paul don, Mrs. W. L. (Margaret Griffin) Dilworth.

Mrs. Paul (Sallie McCoy) Eckern, Mrs. James F. (Jeanette Ensworth) Finley, Mrs. Frank M. (Junia Franklin) Head, Mrs. C. C. (Myrtle) Jones, Mrs. S. Irby (Elizabeth McMillan) Kolb, Mrs. Farris (Margaret McCoy) McCrory, Mrs. C. M. (Bess Williams) McGalliard, Mrs. Fred (May Windle) Watson, Mrs. T. G. (Inez McMillan Lambert) Gibson.

Mrs. D. C. (Carrie Patton) Morgan, Mrs. E. V. (Sallie Winston) Morgan, Mrs. Ray (Rosina Jeanette) Poland, Mrs. George (Jessie) Ramsey, Mrs. J. B. (Elizabeth Patton) Spragins, Miss Katherine Patton, Mrs. R. A. (Gertrude Swezey) Fox and Miss Bernice Swezey.

The chapter is active in all patriotic celebrations, and was the first organization in Ardmore to sponsor a city-wide coverage of the display of the American Flag. It has continuously distributed Flag Codes to the public schools of the county. It gives an American flag and a citizenship manual to newly naturalized citizens.

During the last war its members were all active in Red Cross, civil defense, sale of war bonds, and recruitment of WAC's. Many members received citations for meritorious service in these fields.

In the early twenties the chapter placed a bronze

plaque in the hall of Ardmore High School on which is inscribed each year the name of the boy and girl who make the highest grades in American History.

In 1930 the chapter erected a granite marker at the site of old Fort Arbuckle, which is 7 miles west and half mile north of Davis.

Each year citizenship awards are given to high school students in the county. Annual contributions have been given to DAR supported schools throughout the United States. Contributions have been made to the Oklahoma Room in the National Museum in Washington, and the State Museum in Oklahoma.

For many years a chapter of Children of the American Revolution was sponsored by the Ardmore Chapter of DAR. Ardmore Chapter was hostess to the State Conference in 1938 and to two Regional Conferences since that time.

Mrs. J. L. Cox served the State DAR as Vice Regent and Mrs. T. G. Gibson served as State Vice Regent, State Recording Secretary and State Parliamentarian.

The Chapter in Ardmore is a member of the national organization, which was organized in 1890 and has a membership of 179,920. It is one of the 38 chapters in the State Daughters of the American Revolution which has a membership of 2,384.

There are 35 members in Ardmore chapter, two of whom are Charter Members. The following officers are serving at this time: Regent, Mrs. Grover Conley; Vice Regent, Mrs. Harley Laymen; Chaplain, Mrs. Frank M. Head; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Litsey Smith; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. J. Webb; Treasurer, Mrs. T. Cox; Registrar, Mrs. T. G. Gibson; Historian, Mrs. Robert O. Smith; Librarian, Mrs. W. B. McMurray and Parliamentarian, Mrs. Harold E. Pierce.



FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY TEA—Taking part in the ceremony Jan. 25, 1957, are, left to right, Mrs. Vance Lenz, Mrs. Dan McDole, Mrs. E. G. Scott,

Mrs. H. E. Pierce, Mrs. Jim Lesch, Mrs. J. B. Brooks and Mrs. W. L. Pence. The club stands ready with a friendly hand for new residents.

ARDMORE NEWCOMERS CLUB

In January of 1942 Mrs. Harold E. Pierce invited to tea all women who had lived in Ardmore for six months or less and the Newcomers Club was born. Mrs. Pierce remains its sponsor.

"Newcomers Club provides an opportunity for new arrivals to become acquainted and integrated into the life of the community without going through long periods of homesickness and loneliness.

Meetings are held the last Friday of each month at which time new neighbors join in luncheon, games and conversation

There are a Christmas dinner dance, parties for couples and an anniversary tea which is held in January and to which the presidents of the women's clubs of Ardmore are invited along with other "old timers."

In addition to all its social activity the club finds time for many civic and charitable projects.

Those who have served as president of the Ardmore Newcomers Club, listed chronologically from the first president, include the Mmes: Charles Caldwell, Kenneth Heckman, Adrian Fuller, Nathan Lee, W. W. Osborn, C. W. Peterson, G. W. Beckett, J. H. Meagher, Hamilton Johnson, J. P. Williams, Ernie Miller, R. R. Weir, K. W. Hollinger, C. W. Hamm, Vance Lenz and Dan McDole.

ARDMORE IRIS SOCIETY

The Ardmore Iris Society was organized July 13, 1953 in a meeting at Chickasaw Club Lake presided over by Mrs. Ralph Cason. The Ardmore Society is a unit of the Oklahoma Iris Society. Membership in the local unit is open to anyone who is interested in iris.

At this time there are about twenty active members. Since the organization these members have served as president: Mrs. E. Lowenstein, Mrs. W. C. Wright, Mrs. Marvin Shilling and Mrs. Harry Mayes.

The purpose of the Ardmore Society is to promote interest in the culture of iris as a means of beautifying individual gardens and the city of Ardmore, and

to provide a fascinating hobby for all who are interested in growing beautiful flowers.

The meetings are devoted to the study of the culture and propagation of iris, to listening to experts invited to speak to the society, to the prevention and cure of iris diseases, to studying slides, pictures and catalogues of the latest and best iris, and to methods of arranging and displaying the flowers in the home, in gardens, in down town windows and in flower shows.

In cooperation with the Iris Garden Club the society put on an iris show, consisting entirely of iris and iris arrangements. Each blooming season the public is invited to see hundreds of varieties of the most modern and beautiful iris growing in the gardens of the members of the society.

Members of the Ardmore Iris Society attend the state society meetings frequently, to enjoy the speakers, discussions, picnics and garden tours sponsored by the state society in Oklahoma City. Members also exhibit specimens in the state shows.

The Ardmore unit has been helping the State Society in promoting and advertising the national meeting of the American Iris Society which will be held in Oklahoma City in 1959. This meeting will draw hundreds of iris experts and commercial growers from all over the world. Iris fanciers will have on display the very finest and most beautiful of the modern iris in all colors, sizes and varieties.

HEALDTON B&PW CLUB

The Business and Professional Women's Club of Healdton was organized December 16, 1940, with 31 charter members. Bessye Faye Taylor, local business woman, served as the club's first president.

The club's first years were devoted to such war work as assisting the Red Cross surgical dressing project, sponsoring Healdton's participation in the Red Cross Mobile Unit of the blood bank in Ardmore, making hospital shoes, sponsoring WAC enlistment, selling war bonds, and helping to install an "Honor Roll" of servicemen from Healdton. Contributions were made to USO drives, Red Cross, Chinese Nurses Relief, and United War Chest.

Since the war, the club has cooperated with other civic groups in all drives, sponsoring many of them. B.&P.W. helped to get street markers for the city and built a tennis court for the young people. The club has an annual Zeke Tayar Memorial Scholarship which help some talented student study in the field of fine arts.

Since 1946 the Senior Girl Scouts have been sponsored by this club, and has helped send girls to Girls' State many years.

In 1947 the club was hostess to the District Conference, won a state membership citation and organized a B.&P.W. club in Ardmore. In 1951 Healdton's club helped to organize the Ringling B.&P.W. Club.

In 1953 Healdton's club placed third in the state program contest. Several of its members have served as district director and on the state committees.

The club now has fifty-two members and has accomplished a great deal. It is rated highly among the civic organizations.

LADIES OF THE LEAF

The Ladies of the Leaf, a literary club, was organized in the summer of 1900 by Mrs. Maggie Barry, an Ardmore teacher.

The yearbook of 1900-01 shows the following officers: Mrs. W. A. Ledbetter, president; Mrs. Charles Anderson, vice-president; Mrs. W. P. Poland, second vice-president; Mrs. H. C. Potter, recording secretary; Mrs. C. P. Vandenberg, treasurer; Miss Nita Williams, librarian.

Other members at the time were the Mmes. S. T. Bledsoe, W. T. Bogie, W. R. Burnitt, C. M. Campbell, E. E. Chivers, T. N. Coleman, A. C. Cruce, H. E. Foster, H. M. Furman, M. Gorman, Walter Hardy, J. H. Jordan, T. K. Kearney, N. H. McCoy, T. Y. Morgan, Charles Maupin, William Roberts, L. N. Turman, Arthur Walcott, G. H. Webb, Lee Cruce, Z. Addington, S. M. Torbett, W. I. Cruce, Robert Poland, C. L. Byrne, R. L. Ream, J. H. Sykes, O. M. Redfield, John T. Alexander, C. M. Collings, Ed Ringer, J. C. McNees, R. H. Alvis, and Misses Amma Ledbetter, Dettie Goldsby, Mattire Walcott, Ada Bennett, and Adelaide Bernhard.

The Ardmore club organized the first and largest junior club in the state federation, the Leafettes, which it continues to sponsor. The club was hostess in 1934 for the state federation and of the first State Junior Club Convention.

Several members of the Ladies of the Leaf have held state federation positions. The list includes Mrs. W. A. Ledbetter who was state vice-president; Mrs. J. B. Wall, state corresponding secretary; Mrs. T. G. Gibson, state president and board member of the general federation; Mrs. Ingram Henry, state corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Fay Baker, Mrs. Frank M. Head and Mrs. George Hollingsworth, state chairmen.

At present the club has an active membership of 40 and an honorary membership of 10. Officers for 1956-57 were Mrs. J. W. Newcomb, president; Mrs. James Dolman, vice-president; Miss Daily Nichols, second vice-president; Mrs. Joe Ben Champion, recording secretary; Mrs. Fred Carr, treasurer; Mrs. J. B. Wall, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Arthur Walcott, parliamentarian and Mrs. Joe B. Thompson, press reporter.



CANNING IN 1929—Ownership of a pressure cooker was the ambition of most women and here members of the Best Yet Club of Wilson show their interest. Left to right are Mrs. Ona Garner, Mrs. Vera Overstreet, Mrs. Lon Carlisle and Mrs. Mary Wilson.

BEST YET CLUB

Activities of the Best Yet Club of Wilson are quite varied. They run the gamut of activities ordinarily associated with separate clubs devoted to home demonstration work, gardening, charity and civic projects.

The group sponsors a 4-H club, has kept cemeteries, streets and roads beautified and has engaged in many fund-raising projects for charity.

Best Yet was first organized in 1920. They learned to use the pressure cooker, made quilts, helped the Red Cross and Rotary. After several years of inactivity, the group was reorganized in 1948. There are now 20 members.

Charter members signing up in 1920 included Mmes. Vera Overstreet, Dona Haines, Lissie Patterson, Dora Holmes, Lillie Robertson, Leathy Bell, Lon Carlisle, Anna Thompson and Ona Lee.

Mrs. Tom Davis is the club reporter.

KNIFE AND FORK CLUB

The Knife and Fork Club is composed of a group of men and women who band together to secure for themselves outstanding speakers. The Ardmore club of the international organization was founded in 1947.

The first slate of officers were Wirt Franklin, president; Charles E. Farney, vice-president and Mrs. Mort Woods, secretary.

The first board of directors included the president, the secretary and R. J. Cashman, J. B. Champion, Jr., Mrs. Joe B. Thompson, A. E. Plume, Louis Fischl, Sam Blackburn, and Fred Watson.

Joe B. Thompson, Louis Fischl and Rev. Edwin B. Morton were named to draw up the constitution and by-laws. Sam Blackburn, Ernest Rieser and Mrs. Kennett Hudson were appointed to the committee on publicity.

The membership committee, composed of Mrs. Mort Woods and Mrs. Fred Watson, worked hard to secure the 135 members necessary so that there would be enough money available to have speakers the first year. And the first speaker did appear three months later in the Fellowship Hall of the First Methodist Church.

There are now 200 couples in the Knife and Fork Club.

Officers for 1957 are Mort Woods, president; Don Campbell, first vice-president; Mrs. Evelyn Spears, second vice-president; and Arthur Kyles, secretary. Board members in addition to these officers are Harold H. Reed, Felix Simmons, Dr. G. W. Clay, L. E. Larsen and Mrs. John Carlock.



HOSPITAL AIDES IN 1945—Back row, left to right, Fritz Horn, Margaret Casey, Jo Pat Graham, Ora Bell, Sherma Horton, Jean Falls, Barbara Pat-

terson, Jimmy E. Brady, Diana Lou Brett and Melva Jean Hall. Front row, left to right, are Barbara Howard, Mrs. Lela Canada and Carol Clough.



SENIOR Y-TEEN CLUB, 1957—Standing, left to right, Paula Allen, Judy Adams, Nancy Clements, Sammie Clements, Karen Scovill, Kathy Leach

and Julia Lang. Seated, left to right, are Jeanette Humphrey, Sheila Brown and Janie Smith.



DAR CHAPTER IN 1927



KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS DRILL TEAM IN 1912



CHARTER MEMBERS—These ladies were charter members of Ferndale. Left to right are Mrs. S. A. Douglas, Mrs. A. Carpenter and Mrs. George Bullard Sr.

FERNDALE REVIEW CLUB

In the early part of 1906, nine enterprising women, intent on the promotion of self improvement in literature, music and art, as well as the upbuilding of the city, met at the home of Mrs. S. A. Douglas in Ardmore, Indian Territory and organized a club.

"Ferndale" was the name chosen from the Ferndale addition, where many ferns grew, and where the charter members lived.

Throughout the years, the members have clung to their adopted motto, "The Welfare of the People is the Supreme Law." The original chosen colors, green and gold and the club flower, the fern, have remained the same.

Within two years the club had grown from a membership of nine to 19. The nine charter members were Mrs. George Bulard, Sr., Mrs. W. H. Bumpass, Mrs. Arthur Carpenter, Mrs. S. A. Douglas, Mrs. Ashley Douglas, Mrs. Milton Ikard, Mrs. Joe M. London, Mrs. W. H. Murphy, and Mrs. A. C. Young.

Mrs. Milton Ikard was the first president and Mrs. S. A. Douglas served as second president.

The first printed yearbooks were used in 1908. On April 26, 1924, the Ferndale Review Club became a member of the Oklahoma Federation of Womens Clubs and has always been represented at state and district meetings.

Among the many outstanding accomplishments of the club during its early years were:

1. Furnishing the office and donating a bookcase and clock to the Fourth Ward School.
2. Donating funds each year to the Benevolent Society with which to fill baskets for the under-privileged.
3. In 1915, an entire family of young children was adopted by the club. They were clothed and furnished with necessities so they could attend school.
4. The club sponsored two older girls through high school and graduation, supplying all school needs.
5. It sponsored one girl through college.
6. The club provided seats and swings for Whittington Park.
7. During World War I, the members worked in Red Cross projects, sewing, knitting and making bandages.

Also, packed and shipped boxes to men overseas.

8. In World War II, club members sent boxes of food and scarce articles to the women of Russia. Two of the members, Mrs. George Bulard Sr. and Mrs. Ran Webb each received honor pins from the Red Cross for 400 hours of service.

9. Members bought and sold war bonds and stamps during bond drives and the club received a special citation from the Treasury Department.

During later years, they have responded to calls for financial aid from the YWCA, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Cancer Fund and Mental Hygiene.

In 1947 and 1948, the club sponsored two Delegates to Girls State Conventions.

In 1948, the members packed women's handbags, full of necessary scarce articles and shipped overseas to women in war stricken countries.

We have received honors at district meetings; Mrs. Arthur Carpenter received First Place for her original poems and our Scrap book and Press book received First Place.

Later achievements are: Winning First Prize of \$75.00 in Peden's table setting contest.

Sponsoring a class in Parliamentary Usage for all clubs of the city.

The Club held a Kitchen Shower for the Ardmore Day Nursery and furnished everything, including stove and dishes.

We celebrated our Golden Jubilee Year, with a Guest Tea in the Fall and our programs have carried out the anniversary theme.

There are now 30 members of the club.

A partial list of past presidents include Mrs. J. L. Cox, Mrs. C. E. Ringer, Mrs. B. V. Barr, Mrs. M. F. Winfrey, Mrs. W. R. Shackelford, Mrs. Guy Sigler, Mrs. J. A. Armstead, Mrs. C. B. Northcutt, Mrs. Harry S. Mayes, Mrs. J. C. Crews, Mrs. A. M. Stringer, Mrs. A. H. Newton, and Mrs. Albert Bonneau. Current president is Mrs. Floyd Tempero.

VFW AUXILIARY

Twenty-six members made up the original body of the Ardmore Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary to Post 4574 which was formed March 1, 1949.

Mrs. Rupert Martin was the first president and still is active in the unit.

Other presidents have been Mrs. W. J. Berryhill, Mrs. O. F. Cissell, Mrs. Leon Nichols, Mrs. J. H. White, Mrs. M. F. Ferris, Mrs. Harold G. Morris and Mrs. Pete Fair. Mrs. C. H. Beane is president for 1957 and the membership has grown to 67.

Charter members who are still active include Mrs. Marian B. Anderson, Mrs. Berryhill, Mrs. Alvin Bruce, Mrs. Cecil Button, Mrs. Cissell, Mrs. John Cummings, Mrs. Fair, Mrs. Ferris, Mrs. Bertha Freeman, Mrs. Nellie M. Gordon, Mrs. Vic Hollister, Mrs. Sallie Hughes, Mrs. Juanita Landrum, Mrs. LaRoche, Mrs. Annabelle S. Shafer, Mrs. Bert Wages, Mrs. Hallie White and Mrs. J. H. White.

The Auxiliary each year does hospital work, rehabilitation, and conducts community service and youth activity projects.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS—Shown here are VFW Auxiliary presidents. Left to right are Mrs. Rupert Martin, Mrs. W. J. Berryhill, Mrs. O. F. Cissell,

Mrs. J. H. White, Mrs. M. F. Ferris, Mrs. Harold G. Morris, Mrs. Pete Fair and Mrs. C. H. Beane. Mrs. Leon Nichols, fourth president, was absent.



VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERS AT 1957 INSTALLATION

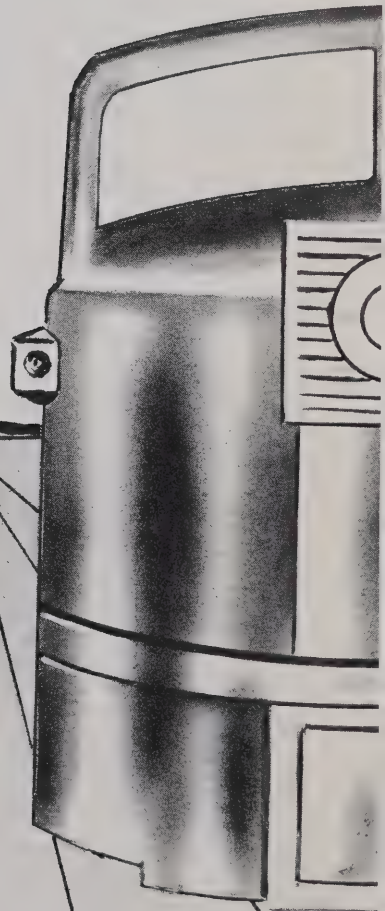
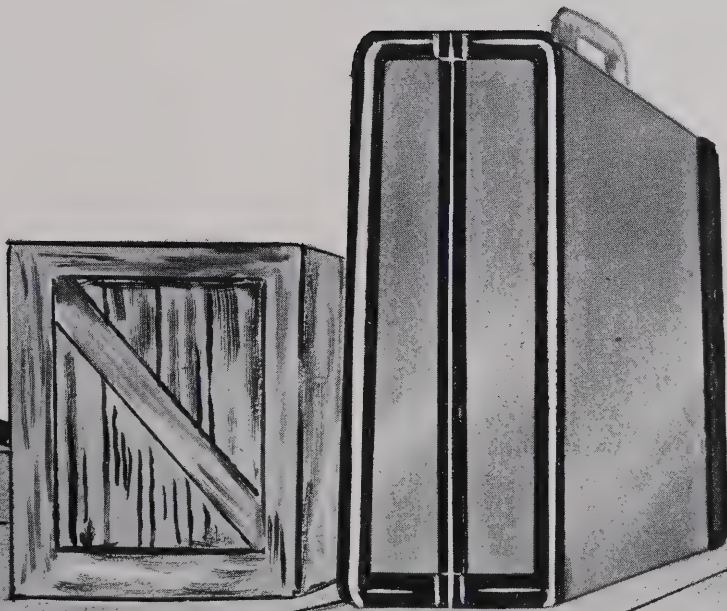
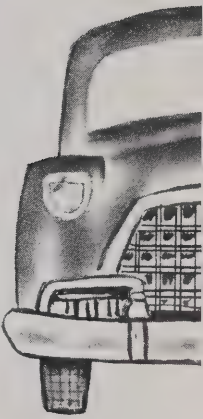
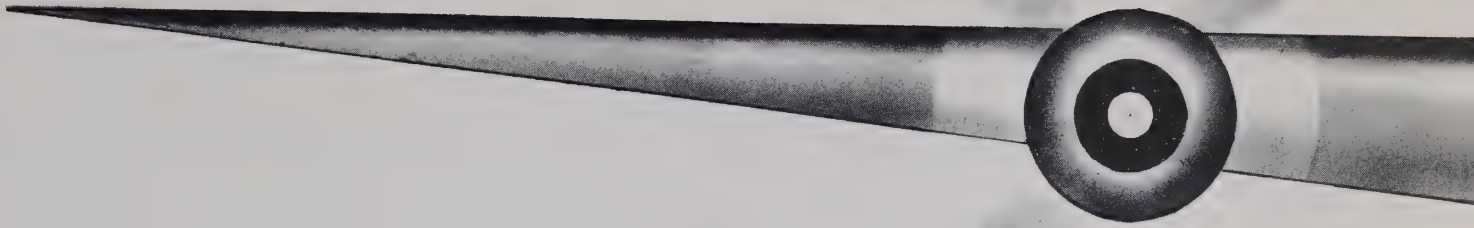


KENTUCKY CLUB, ABOUT 1907, IN FRONT OF CARNEGIE LIBRARY



LIONS CLUB PROJECT OF CALF BUYING FOR HEALDTON 4-H IN 1950

Transportation





MODERN HIGH-SPEED ROUTES CUT THE ROLLING COUNTRYSIDE

FROM RED DUST TO CONCRETE RIBBONS

Before statehood, there was no money for highways except for streets in incorporated towns and cities.

Before 1907 the only way the roads leading out of Ardmore were kept in condition was by voluntary contributions made by merchants.

The roads followed the path of least resistance, winding around hills and crossing streams where they could best be forded.

In November, 1907, machinery was provided for the various counties to issue bonds or collect taxes to take care of these and other necessary improvements.

With the coming of statehood, roads were laid out on section lines and as taxes were received or bonds voted, bridges and other improvements were made.

On Jan. 4, 1923, contract was let at Oklahoma City for two miles of paving north from Ardmore and also three miles east.

The main road north from Ardmore passed by the country club, as members of the club and many citizens of Ardmore pressed to have the pavement laid out along that route.

A. R. Losh was the federal engineer for the district, with headquarters in Fort Worth. He pointed out that as there was a low price bid on rock asphalt with a concrete base for the north road, and inasmuch as Ardmore produced asphalt, he recommended this type for that section. For the section three miles east, concrete was recommended.

Those roads, built 24 years ago, were considered "tops" in engineering. Earth-moving machinery was not in general use and grading was left largely to mules and slips and fresnos.

When Lee Cruce was governor, he appointed Col. Sidney Suggs, the owner of the Ardmoreite, as state commissioner of highways. His salary consisted of \$1 he collected from any good roads enthusiast as a license to drive a car.

Suggs traveled up and down the highways of the state with a paint brush, marking the numbers on telegraph and telephone poles.

Many organizations pushed various roads. The Meridian Highway, for instance, ran from Wichita, Kan., through Enid, El Reno, Chickasha and Waurika to the west of Ardmore.

At that time, people going to Texas drove over a dirt road east of Marietta, crossing Red River at Tuck's Ferry, and going into Gainesville from the northeast over a gravel highway that was almost as good as pavement.

In the fall of 1926, a high type graveled road had been cut through the Arbuckle Mountains. Before that time, people going to Oklahoma City had to go north and east through old Berwyn around the east edge of the Arbuckles to Sulphur and west to Davis. The residents of Sulphur for a long time resented their being thus bypassed. A trip to Oklahoma City was then a

This Is the Car Which Has Rendered Other Electric Types Obsolete

THE
Detroit
ELECTRIC

Let us recapitulate briefly some of the points which have won first place for the *Detroit* Electric—the carriage which, by its remarkable 1060-mile trip from Detroit to Atlantic City without a broken part, established the world's record for electric vehicles.

Here in Detroit—the automobile center of America—the *Detroit* has displaced all other models.

Here, and in every community of consequence, it is the chosen car of the electrical engineer, the builder of gas cars—the men of technical and practical experience.

How has this come to pass?

The picture practically answers this question. It shows a car of surpassing elegance and dignity—

It shows that the *Detroit* door opens to the front instead of the rear—

The step pads are oval instead of having sharp, square corners—

The cushions are more luxurious; the rear one 20 inches deep; the front one 15 inches (the deepest you have ever seen in an electric are 18 and 19, 13 and 14 inches).

The curved front windows are larger; there is nothing whatever to obscure the operator's vision at any angle—

The grab handles on the doors—and all trimmings—are silver finished.

So much—although these are only the more important points—that make for perfect ease and luxury in the *Detroit*.

Let us look over the mechanical and operating details.

The battery is larger and more powerful—

You get more mileage and greater speed—many a *Detroit* owner in continuous, every-day service, is getting a consistent average of 85 miles; and 100 miles is easily possible.

You have five speeds forward and three reverse. You had thought three forward and one reverse the ultimate limit.

Speed control, the alarm, and motor brake are concentrated in one lever—simplest and easiest control.

Mounting the motor under the body in the center of the



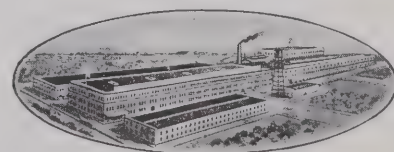
frame removes undue weight and strain from the rear axle and tires.

We could go on enumerating full fifty distinctive *Detroit* features, improvements which make for efficiency and economy of operation.

As it is, haven't we told you enough to show you conclusively what a splendid carriage the *Detroit* is—how much better than the finest and best you have seen in other makes.

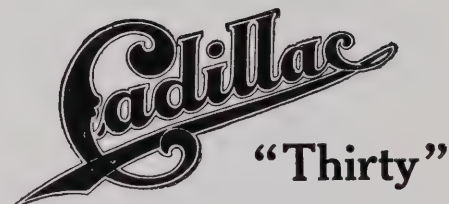
So write for the complete catalogue and for the booklet which pictures and describes the Detroit-Atlantic City tour referred to above.

The Detroit plant of the Anderson Carriage Company—the largest in the world devoted to electric carriages—represents years of successful vehicle manufacturing.



Anderson Carriage Company, Dept. F., Detroit, Mich.

Why is the



replacing higher priced cars?

You doubtless will find in your own city numerous instances of such change.

And this presents a serious and significant question for all automobile buyers.

These men who have changed must have had some strong irresistible incentive.

How did they come to the conclusion that a thousand or even two thousand dollars more would buy them no greater service or satisfaction than they secure in the Cadillac?

It is not easy to answer that question, because it is not easy to tell you in this limited space how good a car the Cadillac is.

Thirty minutes' study of the Cadillac plant would send you away convinced that no car in the world—at any price—is more painstakingly, scientifically made.

Most men who have owned costlier cars are good judges of construction and better judges of service, and to them, as to expert engineers, the mechanical goodness of the Cadillac is an open book.

They see at a glance that a thousand or even two thousand dollars additional can buy them nothing more save—size.

And yet the Cadillac "Thirty" is by no means "small." It is a large, roomy, five-passenger car.

Thirty minutes in any other plant devoted to the manufacture of fine cars selling for several thousand dollars more would reveal no single superiority either in method or equipment.

In no other plant would you find the same fineness and precision throughout—the same elaborate equipment for the attainment of absolute interchangeability.

After such an inspection you must perforce say: "I understand now why the Cadillac Company was awarded the Dewar Trophy. No car could be better than this."

Again, you would come to the same conclusion without visiting the plant if you were even moderately versed in engineering or in motor car construction.

The expert, examining the Cadillac chassis, announces his decision boldly and immediately: "The finest piece of work I've ever seen at any price."

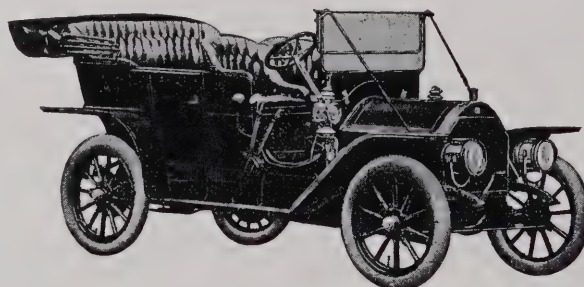
As to the man who has never bought any car before—he can convince himself by what thousands of Cadillacs have done in the past, by the wonderful things the Cadillac "Thirty" is doing in every community, and by the extraordinary enthusiasm of competent authorities of his own acquaintance.

Cadillac "Thirty"

Four Cylinder
30 Horse Power
Selective type sliding gear transmission
Shaft drive
106 inch wheel base
Ample five passenger capacity

\$1400.⁰⁰

F. O. B. Detroit
(Including three oil lamps and horn)



Cadillac Motor Car Company, - - Detroit, Mich.

Member A. L. A. M.

distance of 145 miles for, in addition to this detour through Sulphur, the roads followed section lines. When the road to Oklahoma City was finished, the distance was cut 40 miles, as modern engineering required cutting straight through and, in a general way, following the Santa Fe Railroad.

In 1926, the secretary of agriculture, under whom the Bureau of Public Roads operated, called a meeting of the chairmen of the various state highway commissions to come to Washington to lay out a system of national highways.

Cyrus Avery was chairman of the Oklahoma Commission and represented the Federal Aid District, consisting of the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. French Gentry, the member from Enid, and Roy M. Johnson of Ardmore, accompanied Avery to Washington. Gentry succeeded in getting the present Highway 81 located through Enid and south. Johnson was fortunate in getting U. S. 77 located north and south through Ardmore and running south through Dallas to Houston and Galveston.

While in Washington, the group found out that Harry Moseley, chairman of the Texas Commission, was anxious to get U. S. 70 designated from Wichita Falls through Gainesville, Bonham, Paris and Texarkana. The road from Gainesville east through those points was already paved. However, by promising to get the highway east from Ardmore paved through southern Oklahoma, the Oklahoma group finally got the designation of U. S. 70 east and west through Ardmore, going into Texas west of Wichita Falls.

When Bob Kerr ran for governor, he promised to finish the paving of U. S. 70 from Ardmore east.

Back in the year 1923, there were several million dollars worth of federal aid money which would have

to revert to the U. S. Treasury unless spent on Oklahoma's highways. As a result, the counties east of Ardmore voted six per cent bonds to match federal funds and thus a graveled road was built along the general present routes of U. S. 70 through Marshall, Bryan, Choctaw and McCurtain Counties.

Oklahoma, through toll roads and the four-lane highways now being built, will be one of the first Western states to have a modern system of highways.



PAVED STREETS UNDER AN UMBRELLA OF LEAVES



HIGHWAY 70 WEST OF ARDMORE



A. W. GUTHRIE TEAM HAULS FIVE-TON STILL AT HEALDTON

DRAY LINE SERVICE

In 1887 the only freight hauled into Ardmore was done by the railroads—the Rock Island, Frisco and the Santa Fe.

Once the railroads delivered the goods to the siding the merchandise was handled by individuals with horse and wagon. About this time, Lee Galt started a dray line to handle goods with special dray horse teams and wagons. Shortly thereafter an employee, Farley Richmond, bought the line and it became known as Richmond Dray Lines. In the course of the business, Richmond handled the first oil drilling rig to be used in the Ardmore area, a large task considering its size and the absence of good roads.

In 1898 Richmond Dray Lines handled another large transfer job, the unloading and transportation of a large brick press machine to Ardmore's asphalt mine three miles from town.

The operators of the brick firm believed they could make brick from asphalt but the project was a dismal and expensive failure when the bricks refused to hold together. After a year or two the brick press was dismantled and shipped out.

About 1904 Richmond handled his biggest single job, that of unloading all the pipe and material for the city standpipe to be placed north of town.

Three years later Richmond sold the draying part of his business to J. L. Wilson and Richmond devoted his time to the dirt contracting business. Then, with only horse and manpower, he built Chickasaw Lake, City Lake, the North Lake and constructed the roadbed for the Oklahoma, New Mexico & Pacific Railway (later known as the Ringling Railroad).

Wilson was responsible for many improvements in the moving and transfer business. During his time the first trucks were put into operation and the first dual wheels and van bodies for trucks were built under his direction.

Today, Ardmore is served by six motor freight lines and is the base for four truck lines specializing in hauling of petroleum products. Seven companies are engaged in the moving and storage of household goods and connect with van lines to all points of the country.

TAXICABS

Taxicabs were operated in the early days of Ardmore and the auto by individuals and called Service Cars. Service was offered on a basis of hauling whatever they could get into the cars at whatever the operator felt he wanted to charge.

The service mainly was used by oil operators to get to some backwoods spot that could not be reached any other way. Many times Service Car operators would be gone for days at a time to haul one passenger. Conditions of roads made this time delay a probability rather than an exception.

Eight taxi companies service the city at the present.

BUS LINES

The first bus line in Ardmore came in 1923 when Jake Goode and five of the city's service car operators banded together. They received one of the first permits issued by the state and started making six regular trips to Wilson and Healdton. Fares charged by Pioneer Bus Line were: 50 cents to Lone Grove, 75 cents to Wilson and \$1.25 to Healdton. Regular-size cars soon gave way to special built Nashes, Buicks, Studebakers and Grahams. These cars were sent to Oklahoma City where a machine shop would lengthen the frames and add a section to the bodies so that more passenger space could be provided.

Later, more modern buses were instituted and the service extended to Waurika, Frederick and Vernon. In 1929 Goode and his associates sold the line and permit and the line was re-named Jordan Bus Line which still serves the area, along with three other lines.



Packard

"THIRTY"
1909



Packard "Thirty" with Demi Limousine Body



Packard Motor Car Company
Detroit, Michigan

Sold in New York at 1861 Broadway



PILOT'S EYE-VIEW OF ARDMORE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

AVIATION WITH GROWING PAINS

Ardmore and Carter County were pioneers in the early development of aviation in Oklahoma. In 1920, two World War I aviators, Arthur Oakley of Ardmore and Dorsey Askew, a Kansan, established Ardmore's first airport in a pasture on the north side of town and east of the Carter Indian Seminary. A large wooden hanger was built.

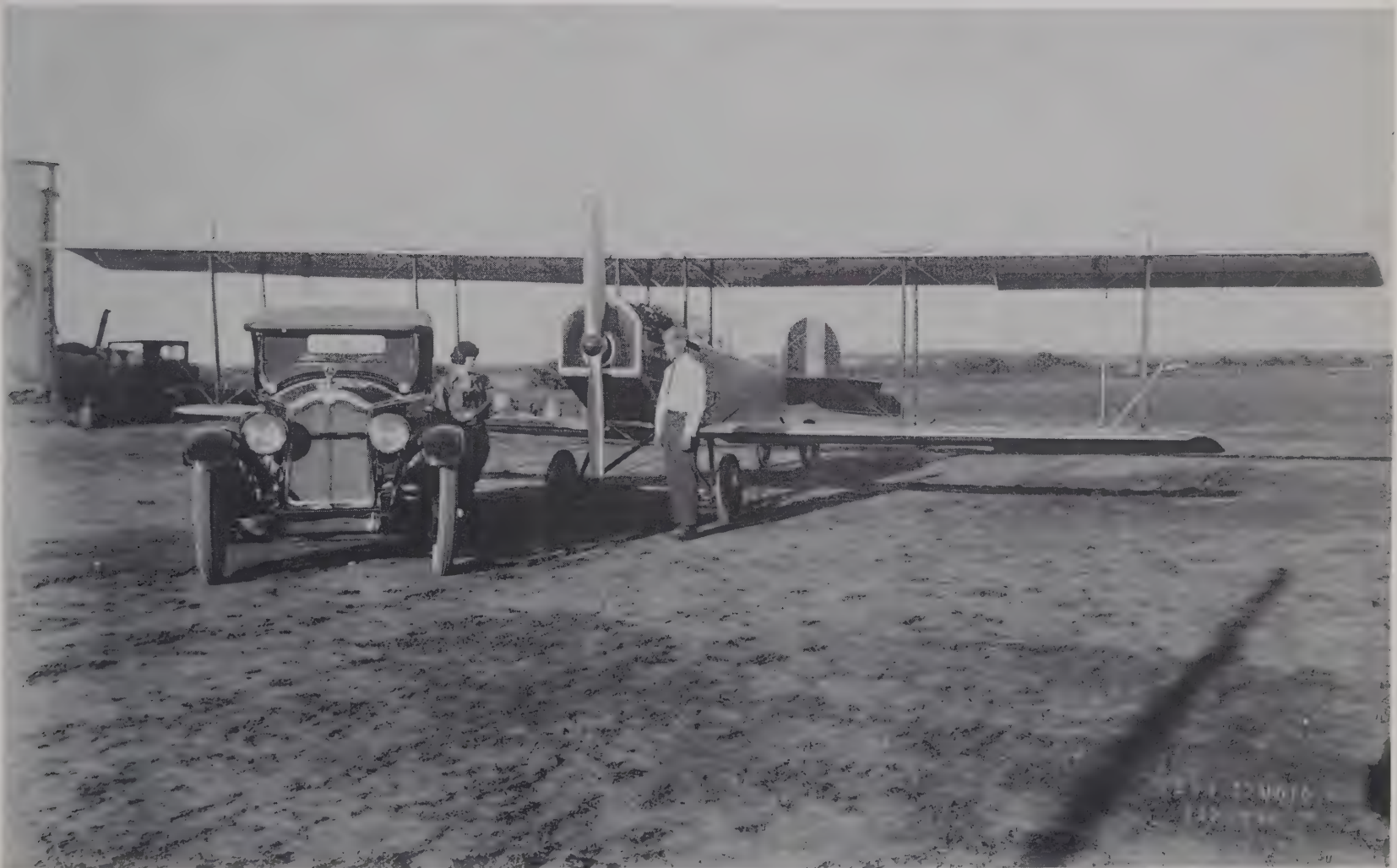
During the 1920's, Oakley and Askew made Ardmore a center of aviation in Oklahoma, and surrounding states and gained national fame in barnstorming, stunting, and

commercial use of the flimsy airplanes of those days. Oakley played in several movies and became well known as a movie stunt flyer. The two men set up the first flying school in Oklahoma. Wiley Post, who gained great fame and died while piloting Will Rogers on a round the world trip, was trained by Oakley and Askew here.

Oakley and Askew were skilled aircraft mechanics. They rebuilt and repaired surplus military aircraft and



FASCINATED FLIERS AT ARDMORE IN 1921



MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR OAKLEY WITH THEIR PLANE AND CAR

sold them. Their field was a repair center for planes from several states.

They also made charter flights, and Oakley began flying for Lloyd Noble, Ardmore drilling contractor and oil producer. In 1928, the hanger and all contents were destroyed by fire. Askew became one of the first commercial airline pilots, but Oakley remained in Ardmore to establish the present municipal airport.

While operating the first airport, Oakley and Askew teamed up with Dr. Walter Hardy, pioneer surgeon and founder of the famous Hardy Sanitarium, to establish the first airplane ambulance in the world. They could fly the sick and injured to doctors or hospitals anywhere in the country.

In 1930, the present Ardmore Municipal Airport, nine miles north of Ardmore and one mile south of Springer on U. S. Highway 77, was established by Arthur Oakley with the help of Ardmore citizens who put up the money. Two of the leaders in supporting the project were Sam McDaniel and George Gibbons. Oakley attempted to operate the new airport on his own, but those were the years of the great depression and the days of barnstorming were over. So, along about 1936, he gave up

and became full time pilot for the Noble Drilling Corporation. The airport was given to the City of Ardmore.

A succession of leasees and managers had charge of the airport after it became officially Ardmore's municipal airport. With the establishing of commercial airline services between Oklahoma City on the north and Dallas and Fort Worth on the south, the field here was designated as an emergency landing field. The Civil Aeronautics Authority established a weather station at the field which is still in operation.

After World War II, the airport was site of a large flying school for the training of private pilots under the "GI Bill."

Today, Ardmore Municipal Airport is an important factor in the activities and progress of the city and Carter County. It is operated by Hamp Caron, a World War II pilot. Caron provides charter services, airplane service and repair, flying instruction, and sales and service on Cessna planes. There are approximately 40 planes based at the field, plus large numbers of transient aircraft. Several oil and drilling companies maintain airplanes at the field.



MAIN HANGAR AND AIRPORT CREW TODAY



W. T. MAXWELL TEAMS ON THE MAIN STREET AT WIRT IN 1916





GLITTERING STREAMLINERS FURNISH QUICK TRANSPORTATION

SPIKES, TIES AND STEEL IN OKLAHOMA

The entire line of the Santa Fe across the state of Oklahoma from Arkansas City, Kan., to the Red River and through Carter County was placed in commercial operation June 12, 1887. The line from Arkansas City to Purcell was constructed in the name of the Southern Kansas Railway Company, an AT&SF owned subsidiary which later was taken over by the parent company.

In 1912 construction of the Oklahoma, New Mexico & Pacific Railway was started under ownership of Jake Hamon and John Ringling for the purpose of connecting with the lines serving Ardmore to deliver freight to the western parts of the county. The original plan was to have the road go as far as Lawton, at least, but the discovery of oil west of Ardmore provided the line with all the business it felt it could handle and the rest of the proposed road was abandoned.

At the western terminus of the line a town was laid out and given the name of Ringling. Town sites were also established and given the names of Healdton and Wilson. The line operated at good profit from the time of the driving of the golden spike at the Ardmore Terminal by Hamon until it was sold to Santa Fe in 1926. From about 1915 the line had been under the sole ownership of Ringling and was managed by Tide Cox who still makes his home in Ardmore. Santa Fe combined the operations of the line with its own and abandoned its depot and most of the roadbed within the city limits of Ardmore.

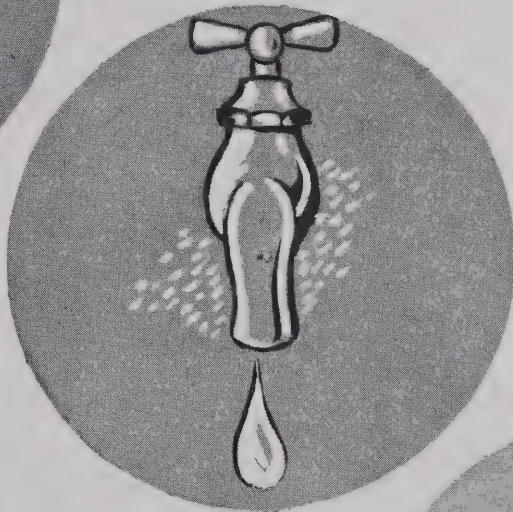
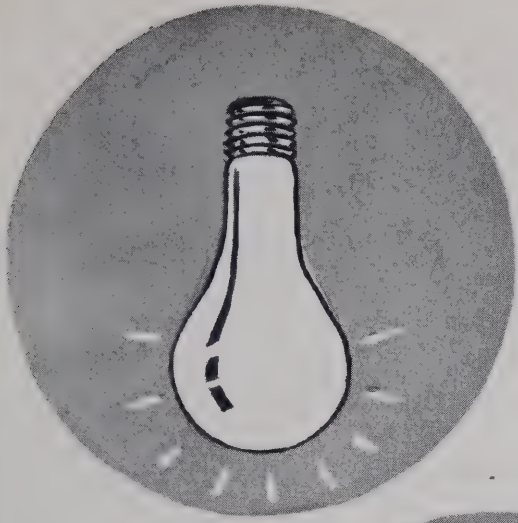
A depot still stands at the corner of N. Washington and 3rd Ave., N.W., and is leased to the American Legion Post for a headquarters. The old roadbed has been paved and named Railroad Ave.

A branch of the Rock Island Line was another of Ardmore's early rail facilities. The company no longer operates in Ardmore and its facilities were abandoned several years ago.

At present Ardmore is served by the Santa Fe and Frisco lines.



A BAD MOMENT—Wrecks such as this were not unusual in the early days and they always drew a crowd within a short time. Here one car has slipped off the track and the line was idled for some period of time.



UTILITIES

TELEPHONE SERVICE

The original telephone exchange in Ardmore was built by A. J. Wolverton and Clarence A. Rose in 1898. During the same year they merged with the Inter-State Telephone Company to form the Ardmore Electric Company.

Two years later the Chickasaw Telephone Company was formed but it was two years more before the telephone property was segregated from the power and light department of this company. Actually, this firm was essentially a name change deal.

On Jan. 1, 1911, the firm was acquired by the Pioneer Telephone and Telegraph Company, the predecessor in Oklahoma to the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

The franchise under which the Chickasaw Telephone Company operated was for a 20-year period and covered both local and toll service. It provided that the city be furnished one free telephone to be placed in the City Hall or at such place as designated by the city council. Rates were to be a maximum of \$3 for businesses and \$2 for residences.

When the first exchange was opened there were only two employees—Wolverton and Hugh Johnson. Wolverton has related that when he operated the switchboard spent as much time as possible ascertaining names of operators in other towns.

William H. Berry Jr., assumed duties with the Pioneer Telephone and Telegraph Company when it acquired the Chickasaw company property and later he became commercial superintendent of the Southwestern Bell Company in Oklahoma.

B. L. Rasor, who installed the Sterling common battery switchboard in 1907 and was engaged by the Chickasaw company as plant chief remained with the firm unit when it passed to the Pioneer Telephone firm and then continued with that company. He later was transferred to the plant superintendent's department in Oklahoma City where he became transmission inspector.

The first office in Ardmore was located on the second floor of a building at the northeast corner of Main and Mill. It later occupied several different locations, mostly in buildings with other businesses.

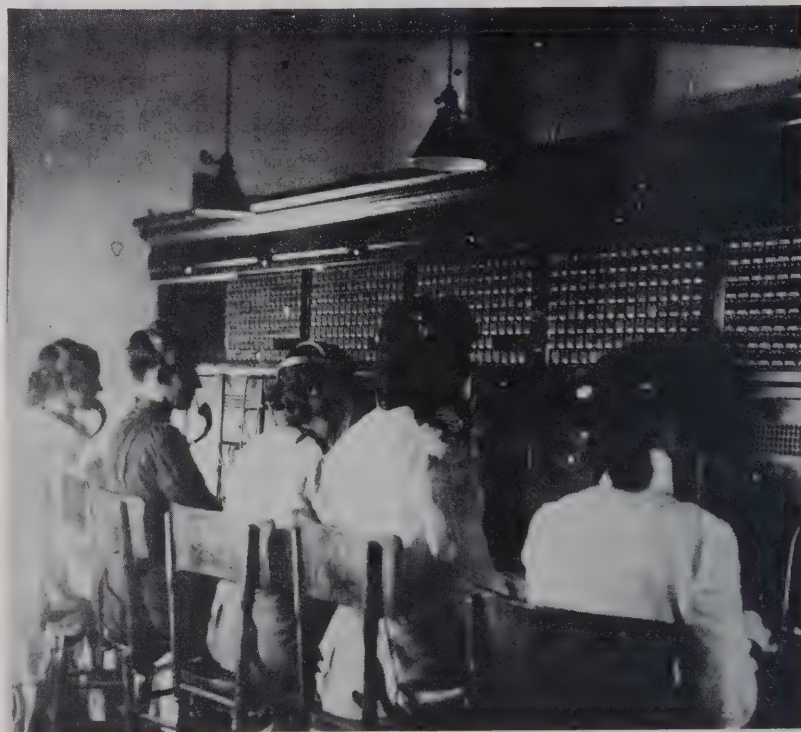
When the exchange opened for business it had about 50 subscribers. By 1899 the number had reached 100 and by 1900 the total had doubled.

An unusual incident occurred in connection with the telephone development at Ardmore in 1894.

Wolverton, who later built the Ardmore exchange, organized the Inter-State Telephone Company for the purpose of constructing a line from Ardmore to Gainesville, Texas. The work had progressed to the point where the poles and wire were in place.

The Indian Police, who had jurisdiction over the Chickasaw Nation, came in with axes and chopped down all of the poles from Ardmore to the Red River. The wire also was hacked to pieces.

The unusual behavior resulted from the fact that the company had failed to get proper authority from the Chickasaw Indian Government at Tishomingo. The firm secured the services of an Indian, Charles D. Carter, who later became a congressman, and he secured the proper permit and the line was rebuilt in 1899.



OPERATING ROOM IN 1907



CHICKASAW COMPANY OFFICE IN ARDMORE, 1902





FIRST TELEPHONE OFFICE AT WILSON



THIS WAS SERVICE TRANSPORTATION FOR OG&E IN 1925



THE WESTERN UNION

Mrs. Margarette Evans' earliest recollection of Western Union dates back to about 1912 when her father, W. T. Salisbury, was appointed manager of the Ardmore office.

Mrs. Evans, district cashier for Western Union, has been employed in the Ardmore office since Aug. 22, 1916.

Among her vivid experiences, she recalls the tank-car explosion which occurred in 1915. Only slight damage was done to the Western Union office; the plate glass front was broken.

She recalls that many people swarmed Western Union to send telegrams to relatives and friends to assure them of their safety and that hundreds of telegrams were received from anxious friends and relatives. The Oklahoma City office sent a crew of Morse operators and plant men to set up extra wires to help transmit the heavy load of messages. Western Union kept

its doors open continuously for about two weeks to meet this emergency situation.

Today, Western Union's operations in Ardmore and elsewhere are highly mechanized and messages speed coast-to-coast in seconds through high-speed message centers equipped with electronic brains and push-buttons. All this may not be as colorful as Morse code, but it's a lot faster and more efficient.

Thomas H. Norman erected a new building in 1917 designed to meet the needs of Western Union at 7 A Street N.W. Western Union is still located at this address.

There have been several Western Union managers in Ardmore since the death of Mrs. Evans' father, Mr. Salisbury. Currently, Mrs. Lena Robertson is serving in that capacity. She came to Ardmore from Yukon, Okla., in 1951. She is active in local civic affairs.



ARDMORE WESTERN UNION OFFICE



OLD CHICKASAW TELEPHONE OFFICE AT LONE GROVE



COMBINATION ELECTRIC AND ICE PLANT TAKEN OVER BY OG&E

THE OG&E STORY

When the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company purchased the electric system of the Consumer's Light and Power Company in Ardmore in 1925, a total of 3,500 customers were connected to the lines. Today, the OG&E serves 8,462 customers in the city.

When OG&E purchased the system, Charles Fahrney was named manager. The following year, OG&E purchased the electric properties at Ada, Pauls Valley, Sulphur and Davis, which were formed into the company's Southern Division, with Ardmore as its headquarters. Fahrney was named manager of the Southern Division, and remained in this capacity until his retirement in 1940.

When Fahrney retired, Henry Bowen was transferred to Ardmore from Enid to become division manager, and served in this capacity until February, 1943, when he resigned. The next Southern Division manager was Arthur L. Clough, who served as manager until 1948, when he returned to Oklahoma City for a General Office assignment. At that time Frank Wahlgren was named division manager and has served in that capacity since.

At the time OG&E purchased the electric system at Ardmore, the company had five power customers using more than 100 horsepower load. These were the city water pumping plant, with 400 horsepower; Ardmore Milling Company, 240 horsepower; Imperial Refinery, 225 horsepower; Jones Gin, 140 horsepower, and Colvert Ice Cream Company, 100 horsepower. Before the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company purchased the electric system, several small private electric plants were operated by some of the industrial firms, but these have

since been disposed of by the companies and they now receive their power from the OG&E.

All officers of the company live in Oklahoma and Arkansas, and all of the company's directors live in Oklahoma, including Marshall Collier of Ardmore. The company is owned by 16,000 stockholders from every state in the Union, but no single stockholder owns as much as three per cent of the voting stock.

OG&E has made many improvements in its system in Carter County since it acquired the Ardmore electric system. Almost immediately after the purchase the company constructed a new sub-station and rebuilt the switchboard at the generating plant. The distribution system of the city was improved and extended, including the rebuilding of many lines.

The power plant at Ardmore included a 1,000 kilowatt turbine, which was installed about 1917. This was used by the company for many years, but in its latter years it was used for standby purposes only. The concrete stack of the plant stood 180 feet high, and was one of the city's landmarks. The power plant was razed in 1951.

The transmission and distribution line system in and around Ardmore has been constantly improved and enlarged, and today the company owns and maintains 83 miles of pole line within the city limits. The company also owns and maintains at no expense to the city a street light system which includes 813 lights. Electricity for these lights, and for other public buildings is furnished at a greatly reduced cost as part of the company's franchise agreement with the city.



ARDMORE HOME OF OG&E



APPLIANCE DEPARTMENT ON OPENING DAY IN 1926

GAS SERVICE

In 1905, oil and gas were discovered in Carter County in the Wheeler and Oil City area. Gas was being used in the field at that time as fuel to drill additional wells.

Ardmore Heat and Light Company was formed in 1906 by a group of Lima, Ohio, men for the purpose of piping gas in Ardmore. J. D. S. Neely was president and A. C. Reichelderfer, general manager. A franchise was secured during the fall of 1906 and gas lines were laid in downtown Ardmore ahead of paving that was being installed.

The group did not have control of gas in the Wheeler Field and was attempting to obtain a supply. In the meantime, the Ardmore Gas Company was formed by a group of citizens with W. A. Ledbetter as secretary. This company obtained the gas supply and was endeavoring to get a pipeline built to Ardmore. After much negotiating, an agreement was reached June 19, 1907, whereby the Ardmore Gas Company was to build a pipeline from Wheeler to Ardmore, where they would sell the gas to the Ardmore Heat and Light Company, which would distribute it in Ardmore.

After considerable delays, the right of way was secured and construction of the pipeline from Wheeler to Ardmore started on Oct. 2, 1907. This was a six-inch pipeline.

The Ardmore Heat and Light Company constructed the rest of the distribution system, laying 12 to 15 miles of pipe in Ardmore. The pipeline from Wheeler was completed and gas was turned into Ardmore Dec. 18, 1907.

With the discovery of oil in the Healdton Field, more gas was discovered. About 1913 a pipeline was constructed from the Healdton Field to connect with the line to Ardmore at Oil City. The Ardmore Gas Company was sold Nov. 29, 1915, to a new company, the Ardmore City Gas Company. This company continued to operate the wells in the field, the compressor station and pipeline to Ardmore and sell gas to the distributing company.

As oil and gas were discovered in the Graham and Fox Fields, the pipeline was extended into those fields from Oil City.

In 1916-17 the gas pipelines were extended from the Healdton Field south to the present U. S. Highway 70 and east and west along the road into Wilson and Ringling and both towns were piped for natural gas. Gas was piped into Healdton shortly after the Healdton Field was discovered. This was operated independently until about 1917 when it was taken over by Ardmore City Gas Company.

The Consumers Light and Power Company purchased the Ardmore Ice, Light and Power Company and the Ardmore Heat and Light Company Feb. 21, 1917, and operated both electric and gas distribution systems in Ardmore. The Ardmore City Gas Company furnished gas through its pipelines from the fields. In 1919, the compressor station at Wheeler was moved to a point near the Fox and Graham Fields just south and west of Graham.

A pipeline was laid from Wheeler into the Hewitt Field in 1923, furnishing additional gas for Ardmore.

In 1924 four additional compressors were installed in the station near Graham to keep up pressure on the gas system to Ardmore. They also started rebuilding the main line to Ardmore that year, increasing the size of the line from six inches to eight inches. This was completed in 1928.

The Consumers Light and Power Company and the Ardmore City Gas Company sold their properties to the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company and the firm operated both the gas and electric systems in Ardmore, Healdton, Ringling and the gas system in Wilson.

On Feb. 20, 1928, the gas systems in Ardmore, Healdton, Ringling and Wilson were sold to the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company which has operated them continuously since.

Gas was extended east from Ardmore into Johnston County near Randolph in 1930 to serve Madill and Tishomingo.

Oil and gas were brought in at the Caddo Field north of Ardmore in 1943, furnishing additional gas to Ardmore.

Continually seeking additional gas supplies for this area, a line was constructed from the Fox Field to Velma where a large gasoline plant was constructed in 1948. In 1949 the Ardmore system was connected with the general system of Oklahoma Natural Gas Company, assuring Ardmore a dependable and plentiful gas supply.

Also in 1949, the gas line was extended to Lake Murray State Park to supply gas to the cabins and lodge that were being built.

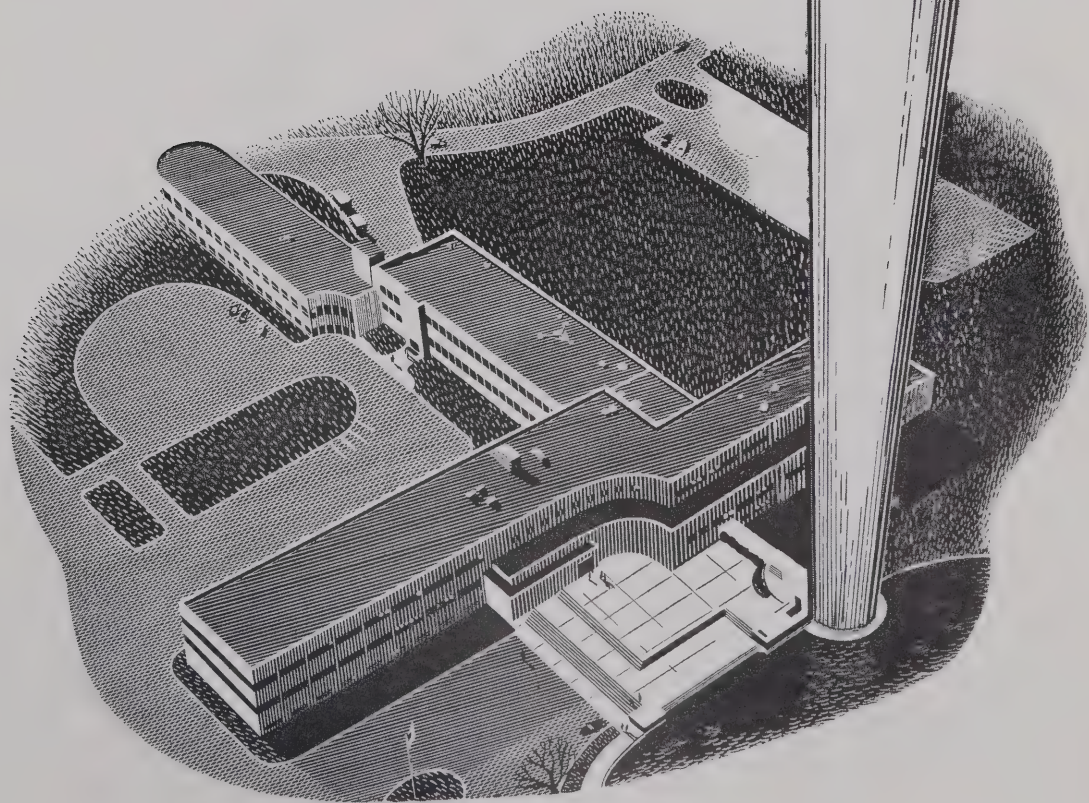
With the reopening of the Ardmore Air Force Base, a gas line was extended from the line east of town to the base.

Numerous additional lines have been laid to new wells in the Fox Field and throughout the area from Fox to Velma and all through the Sho-Vel-Tum Field.



READY FOR WORK—Employees of gas company in 1922 are ready to get on the job. Many of these men stayed with the utility company until they reached retirement age.

Industries





COLVERT DAIRY PRODUCTS

The Colvert Dairy Products Company entered the ice cream business in Ardmore in 1918, at a location on the Santa Fe Railroad on C Street, S.E., under the management of R. G. Colvert.

In those days ice cream was sold primarily in 10-gallon and five-gallon cans packed in a tub containing crushed ice and ice cream salt. Principal method of distribution in the sales area out of Ardmore was by rail. Hence, it was necessary to be near a source of large quantities of ice and accessible to the railroad.

By 1923 the business had grown and larger manufacturing facilities were needed. The refrigerated ice cream truck had entered the picture—in reality a large ice cream tub, as its refrigeration was derived from salt and ice placed in bunkers on top of the truck. Delivery service was established into the booming oil fields over roads that would now be considered unusable. On completion of its new manufacturing plant in 1923, the company moved to its present location at 135 S. Washington St. From this start the company has grown and expanded into Oklahoma's finest independent dairy processing operation.

In 1928 the company entered the fluid milk business, giving Southern Oklahoma its first pasteurized milk. In 1931 it added continuous ice cream freezers, which revolutionized the production of quality ice cream. In 1946 they pioneered the introduction of homogenized milk and the vitamin fortification of milk and in 1948 introduced the single service milk carton in the market. Additional processes and processing equipment were also added in this year, principal among them being the manufacture of condensed milk and ice cream mixes for sale in bulk to other ice cream manufacturers and to soft freeze outlets.

In 1951 the first Pure Pak half-gallon machine in the area was installed and in 1952 the company brought the first completely mechanically refrigerated delivery fleet to Southern Oklahoma. In 1957 Colvert's provided the market with the first multi-vitamin fortified milk.

To facilitate and make possible this impressive growth and to keep the Colvert plant the finest in Oklahoma, extensive building alterations and additions were made in 1941, 1946, 1948, 1951 and 1952. It then became obvious that the business was expanding beyond the limits of the existing building and an enormous million-dollar plant expansion was launched in 1954. Completed in late 1955, the new three-story addition, which joined the two existing buildings into over 50,000 square feet of usable floor space, made the Colvert plant the largest and finest of its kind in the Southwest.

With the development of plant facilities, the company has extended and developed its sales distribution area. In 1950 Durant became the home of the Colvert branch to serve southeastern Oklahoma and this position was strengthened in 1953 by the addition of the Hugo branch, which extended daily service to the Arkansas state line. A branch was also established in Ada with a depot at Holdenville and a third branch headquarters was set up at Seminole, which extended daily distribution to the Turner Turnpike on the north.

In 1956 branches and contract bottling agreements extended the service area to Duncan, Chickasha, and western Oklahoma.

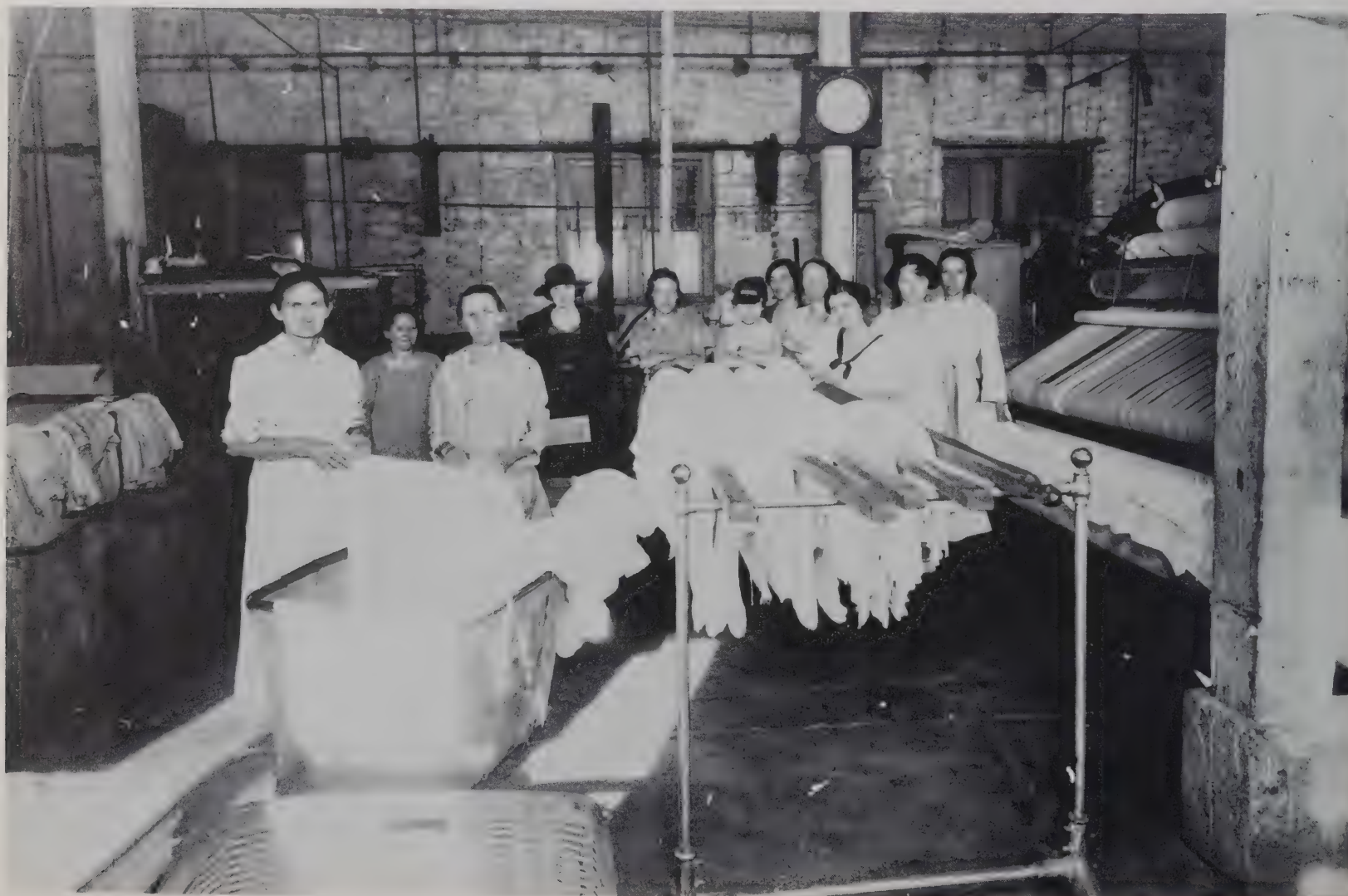
The Colvert Company has become the processing center for the milk from over 300 dairy herds over southern Oklahoma and provides direct employment for 185 men and women.

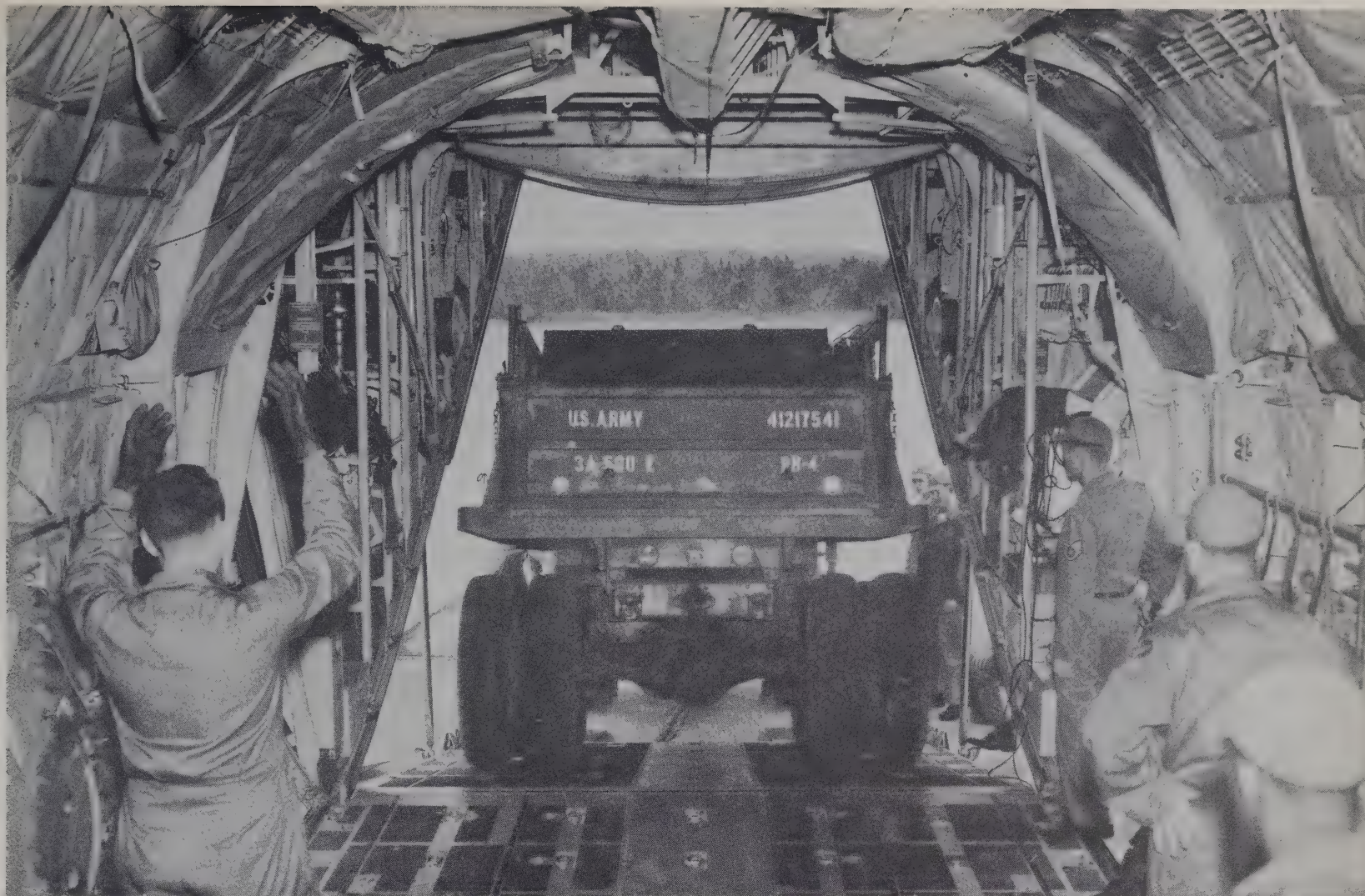


COLVERT'S HORSE-DRAWN DELIVERY WAGONS PULL THROUGH TOWN



TOP PHOTO SHOWS EXCELSIOR LAUNDRY IN 1899 AND LOWER SHOWS IT IN 1922





HERCULES SWALLOWS A TRUCK—A loading crew guides an Army truck up the loading ramp and through the huge cargo door of the C-130

Hercules. The plane, equipped with four Allison T-56 propjet engines, can airlift 20 tons of cargo.

LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT

The United States Air Force's first propjet transport, the Lockheed C-130 Hercules, which is in operational service at Ardmore Air Force was developed to give global mobility to America's armed forces in the jet age.

The Air Force and the Army united in requesting such an airplane which would serve many purposes, and thereby reduce the number of types of aircraft. The Air Research and Development Command and the Air Materiel Command transported the requirement into firm design and production contracts, and the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation produced the first prototype in August, 1954. The first production model flew in April, 1955.

The Hercules, which will fly at speeds of 370 miles per hour, is a troop-and-cargo carrier. It is capable of airlifting 20 tons of equipment or 92 troops, or 64 fully-equipped paratroopers, or 74 litters and two attendants.

The C-130 can deliver men and equipment either by parachute, or by landing on short, hastily - prepared strips. It features a push-button control by which the pilot can release the entire cargo load within two seconds.

"Straight-in" loading is another feature. The platform to the huge ramp door can be locked at truck-bed level for "straight-in" loading, or it can be lowered to the ground to permit motor vehicles to drive into the cargo compartment. The cargo section is as large as a railroad freight car.

Development of this new air freighter came simul-

taneously with development of the Allison T56 propjet engine—the world's most advanced turbine propeller engine in the power category required for large cargo aircraft. Four engines power the C-130. The medium transport, which can fly to altitudes exceeding 35,000 feet, is pressurized to maintain a level of 8,000 feet. The flight deck is designed for a crew of four.

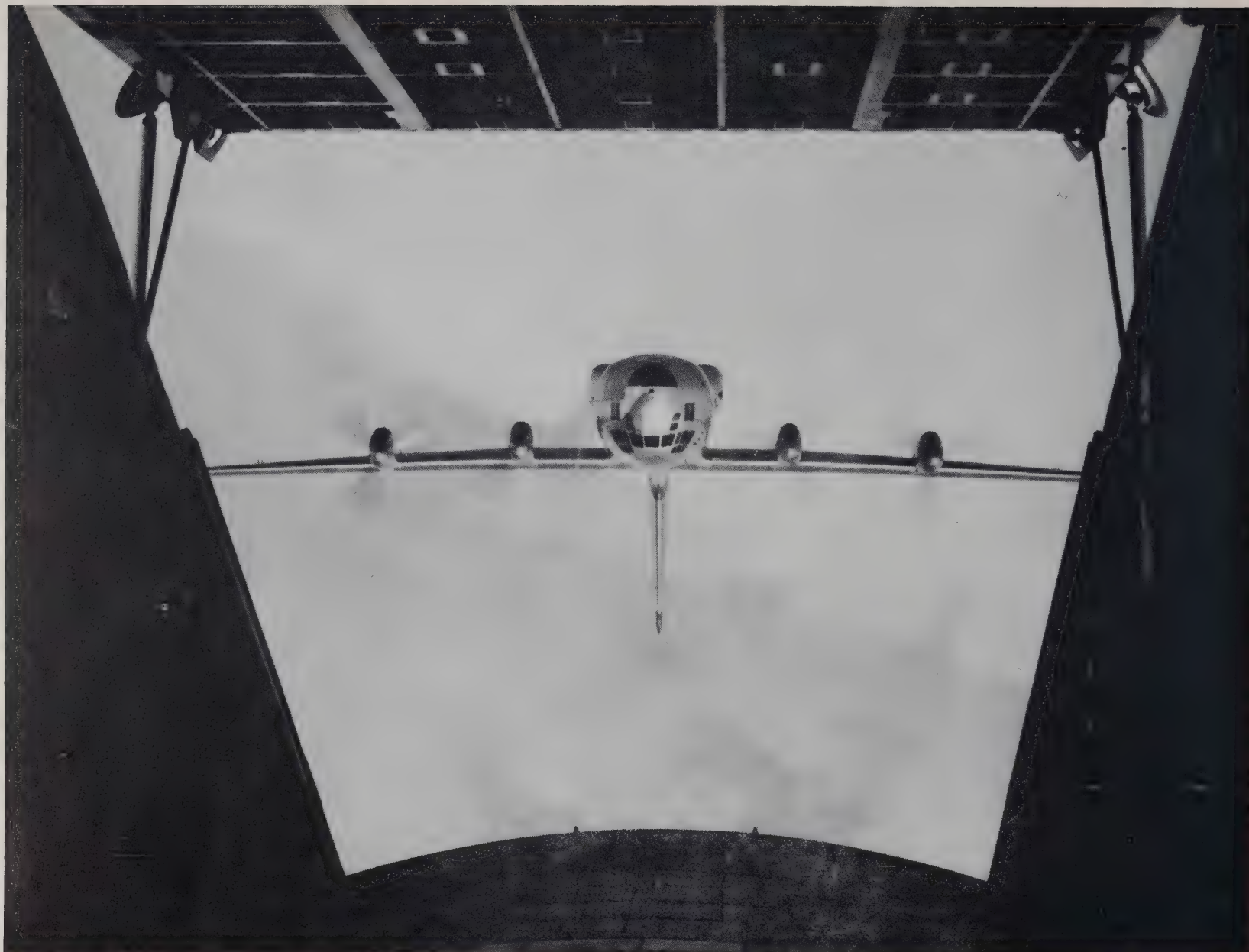
Equipped with Aeroproducts reversible propellers, the plane can back up for great distances along runways, adding to its maneuverability.

When the C-130 became an operational unit of the 463rd Troop Carrier Wing at Ardmore, Gen. O. P. Weyland, commander of the Tactical Air Command said the propjet - powered Hercules will approximately double the combat airlift capabilities of the Air Force's medium transport wings. After Ardmore, the plane went into service with wings at Sewart Air Force Base, Tenn., then the U. S. Air Force in Europe, and later other wings.

A number of new uses have been developed for the cargo-personnel carrier. It has become an aerial photographic and charting plane for the Air Force, and it has been tested as an in-flight refueling tanker by the Marines and Navy.

In 1957, a dozen C-130s were sold to the Australian Royal Air Force.

That same year, Lockheed announced the C-130 would become the first propjet air freighter. The company developed a commercial version of the military plane, capable of new loading and delivery speeds.



ALLISON PROVIDES THE ENGINES FOR THE C-130 HERCULES

THE ALLISON DIVISION

The Allison T-56 engine, four of which power the Hercules, was especially built for this aircraft and to date it is the only production military application of this new engine. Rated at 3,750 equivalent shaft horsepower (shaft power plus jet thrust), the T-56 is the most advanced engine of its type and size in the free world. It delivers 2.3 horsepower per pound of weight and is economical in terms of specific fuel consumption. Its small frontal area greatly reduces drag.

Lockheed Aircraft Corporation and Allison Division of General Motors have teamed up to provide the commercial airlines with another new plane, the ultra-modern Lockheed Electra luxury airliner. Designed from the beginning as a propjet plane, just as was the Hercules, the Electra will be powered by four Allison Model 501 (commercial version of military T-56) propjet engines. American, Eastern, Braniff, National and Western Airlines have ordered these new planes. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is the first European system to order Electras. Service will start in the United States in the fall of 1958—giving air passengers unprecedented comfort and smoothness of flight at speeds of more than 400 mph.

The Allison propjet is 145 inches long, 27 inches wide and 39 inches high. It weighs 1,600 pounds. A propjet (or turbo-prop) engine combines the advantages of a gas turbine engine (jet) with the propulsive efficiency of a propeller. Allison has spent millions of dollars over a 10-year period developing such a revolutionary engine.

Instead of developing its power through "jet thrust," it is designed to obtain most of its power through Aero-products Turbo-propellers. The turbine drives at high speeds a turbine shaft which is connected to a gear box. The gear box transmits this great power from the turbine shaft at reduced speeds to the propeller. The jet exhaust itself also furnishes additional thrust.

Propjet engine controls are not complicated. A single lever for each engine is the pilot's only power control.

Propellers used on the Hercules are the three-bladed, full-feathering and full-reversible type which enable the aircraft to taxi backward on the ground and to take off and land in less than 800 feet. The propellers are stabilized at a speed of 1,105 rpm and are of hollow steel construction.



THE C-123 FAIRCHILD TAKES TO THE AIR

FAIRCHILD AIRCRAFT

Like many other American industries, the Fairchild Aircraft Division which has its products at the Ardmore Air Force Base started modestly, gathered steam as its planes became recognized, boomed during the war years and then levelled off efficiently to its present status.

Two businessmen of Hagerstown, Md., Ammon Kreider and L. E. Reisner, combined a small wooden shed with a garage and established Kreider-Reisner Aircraft Company, Inc., as the forerunner of the organization.

The Fairchild interests acquired control of the firm in early 1929 and a new plant of 50,000 square feet was built to provide for greater output of Challengers which reached what, for those days was a record, of one plane per day.

In 1934 the trend toward twin engine transports caused abandonment of a special cargo-carrying plane developed for the Air Force and an all-metal amphibian built for Pan-American Airways, both of which were single engine. Four years later the company entered the military field in earnest with the development of the famous PT-19 primary trainer, a low-wing, two-place monoplane. More than 5,000 of these planes were produced for the Air Force. During the war thousands of aviation cadets received their initial flight training in PT-19's.

Beginning in 1939, Fairchild began the manufacture, under several sub-contracts from the Glenn L. Martin

Company, of tail surfaces and wings for Martin land planes 167 and 187 and the PBM flying boat. These orders continued until V-J Day.

A specialized, two-engine advance trainer, the AT-21, was developed in 1942. Late in the war years the firm began development of what was destined to become its best known product, the line of revolutionary Packet transport planes. Soon christened "Flying Boxcars," the C-82 Packets became standard cargo and transport planes for the Army's airborne operations.

Two hundred and twenty of these planes were ordered by the Air Force and in 1948 the company went into quantity production of an improved version, known as the C-119 Packet. A different version of the C-82 and the C-119 is the SC-120 which is intended to serve as an "air tractor."

In October, 1953, Fairchild was awarded a contract to build C-123B airplanes. The plane is functionally similar to the C-119 and both primarily are designed for transport of men, weapons, equipment and supplies.

Still later came development of a wooden glider designated XCG-14 and other refined gliders. These planes were designed and developed by Chase Aircraft Company, West Trenton, N. J. A large amount of stock in this plant later was purchased by Henry J. Kaiser.

In June, 1953, the Air Force cancelled all contracts with Kaiser and awarded a contract to build the C-123B planes to Fairchild.



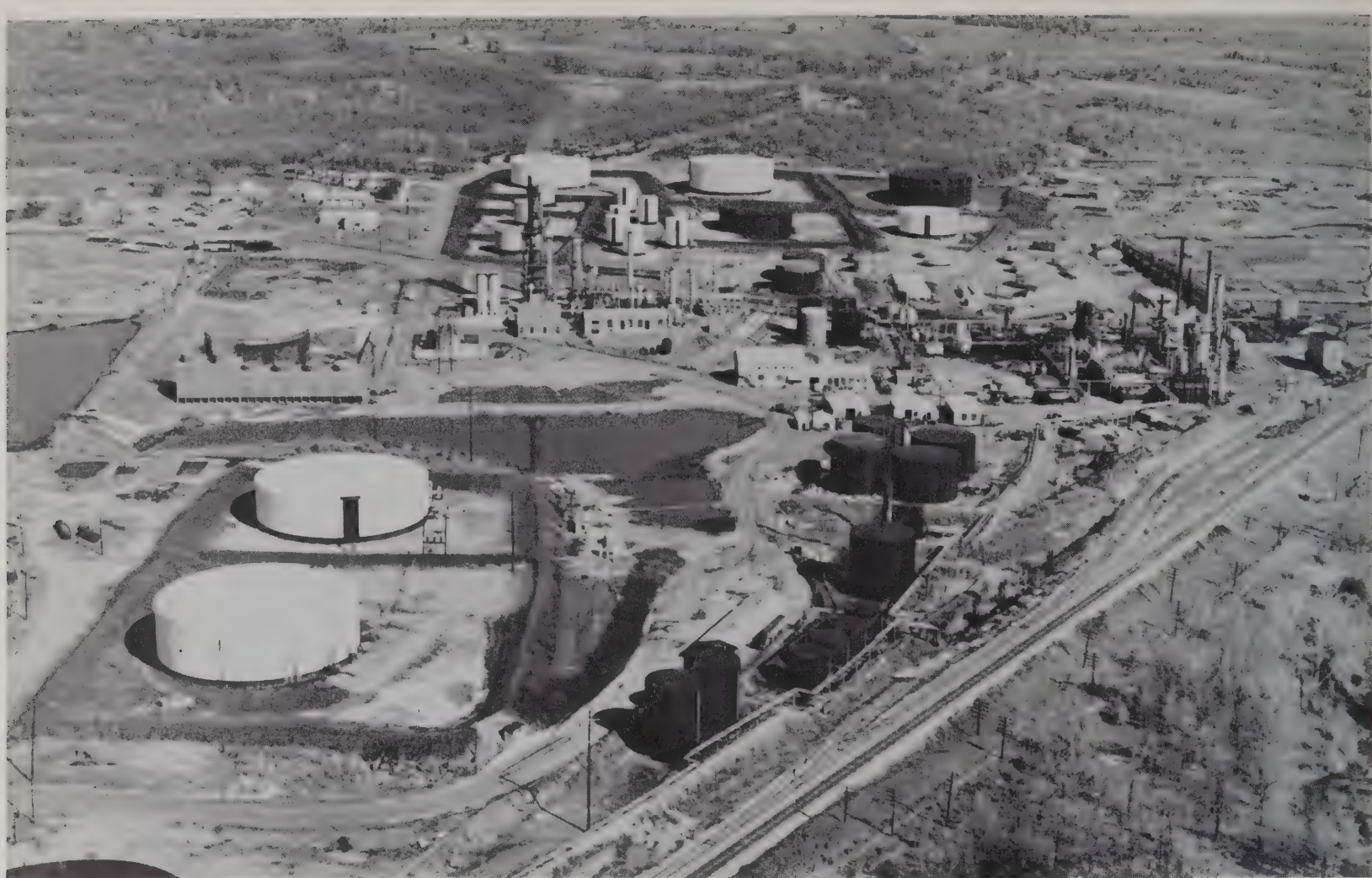
THE C-123 APPEARS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD



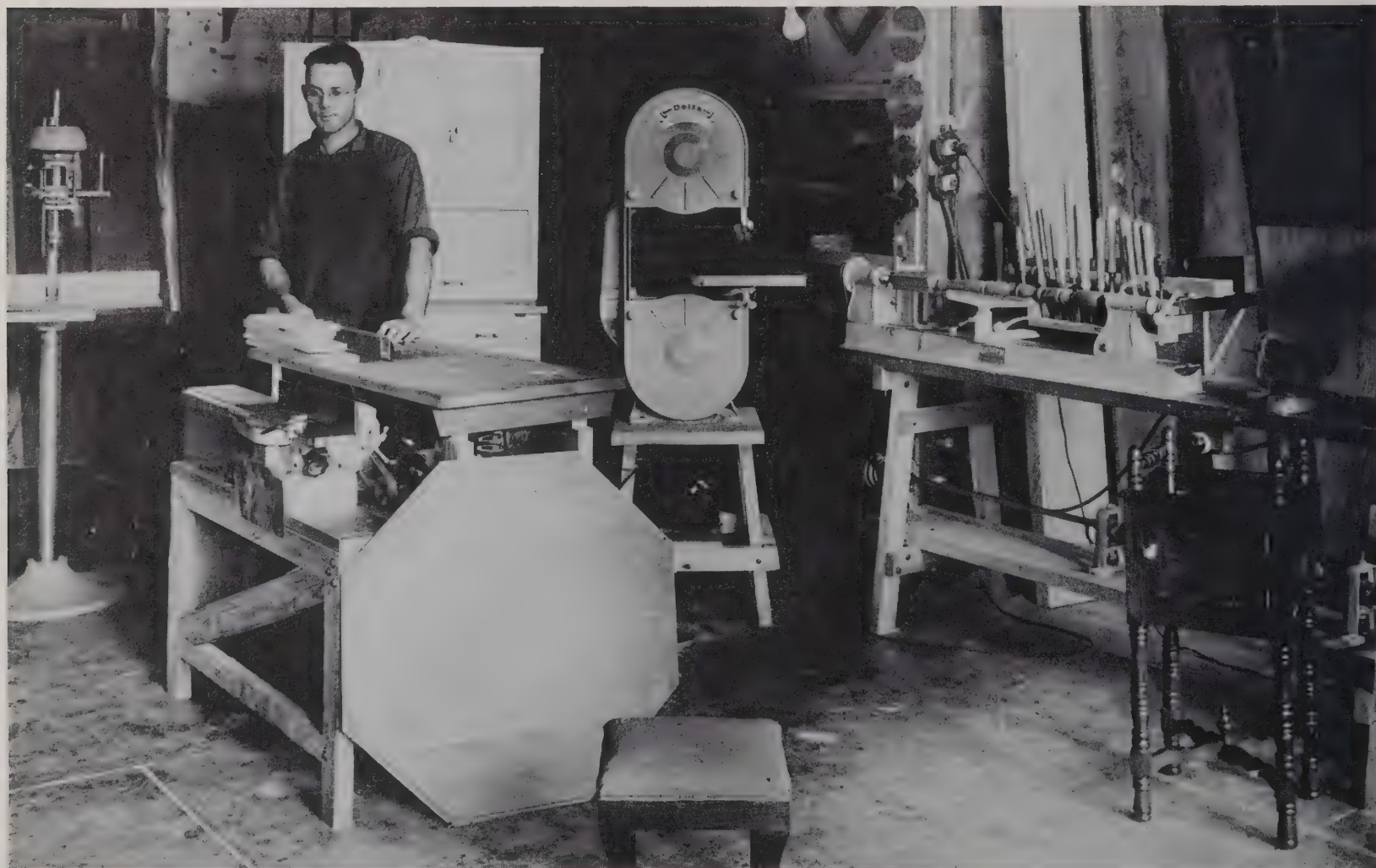


SIGNAL OIL AND GAS COMPANY, SCENES AT FOX PLANT

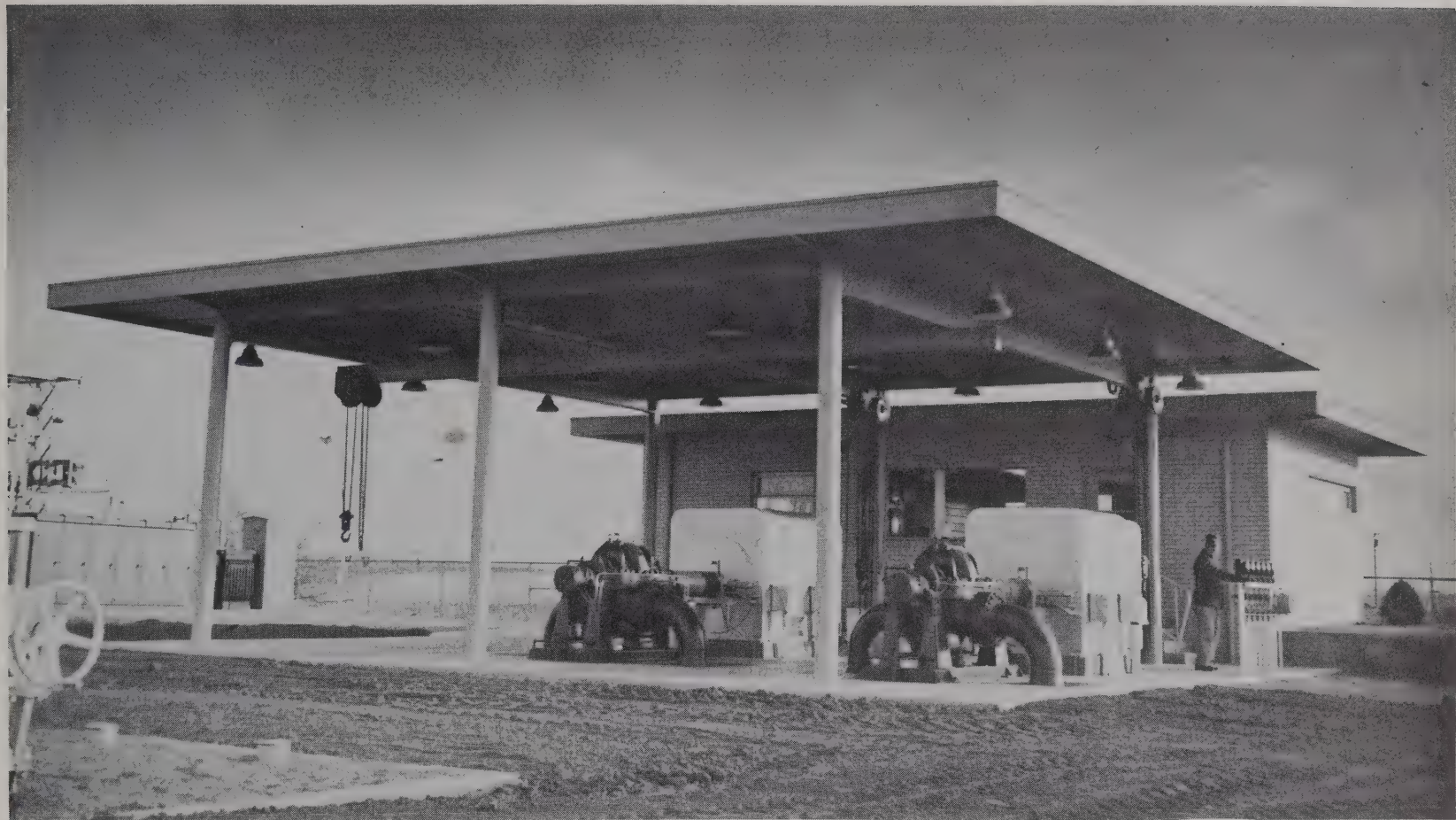




BEN FRANKLIN REFINERY



EARL MILLER, BUILDER OF SOME OF THE FINEST HOMES IN ARDMORE, IN HIS SHOP IN 1934



NEW MODERN ELECTRIC STATION AT HEALDTON

SERVICE PIPE LINE COMPANY

Service Pipe Line Company Station is located one and one-half miles south of Wirt. The original station was built in 1914 and consisted of two steam pumps operated by five steam boilers. These were later replaced by a diesel station consisting of three 250 h.p. Snow and one 750 h.p. M&S engines driving reciprocating pumps. A new modern semi-automatic electric station, consisting of two 1,000 h.p. electric motors connected to centrifugal pumps replaced the old station in 1953.

The first chief station engineer at this station was Tom Blake. Present station personnel consists of E. A.

Carmichael, chief station engineer, and station engineers W. F. Spears, W. T. Hill, D. J. Tate, R. L. Hammon and T. L. Stephens. Some of these old-timers have been connected with Service Pipe Line Company 37 years and vividly remember Ragtown before it became Wirt.

During this period Service Pipe Line Company has maintained a pipeline crew in this area. The employees have been active in participating with employees of other companies in promoting and enjoying the contributions made by the oil industry to the high standards of living which are enjoyed today by every citizen.



THE HEALDTON STATION WHICH WAS ABANDONED IN 1953



CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY



BUILDING NEW HOMES IN ARDMORE

